Lutheran World Service (India)

Annual Report 1985

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With Compliments

AAGE LARSEN
DIRECTOR
LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE (INDIA)

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To Our Friends...

1985 was a year of new hopes and visions in India. The country has focused its attention on the future with new expectations.

For the poor who still account for a large part of the population, the expectations are mixed with anxiety. Will the future give them opportunities which the past has denied them?

In Lutheran World Service India, we have the impression that the poor are coming to the realisation: that a better future will not be brought as an overnight miracle but, will be achieved only through their own hard work and collective efforts.

During the year, village organisations in the form of village committees and small groups of a cooperative nature have mushroomed in all areas where we work. These organisations have planned and implemented their own activities and most have started building up funds for future development.

It is significant that women in many cases have built up their own organisations. Most important is perhaps, the fact that young people have taken the lead in many villages in new economic ventures as well as in spreading education and initiating cultural activities. For us in Lutheran World Service India, the experiences of the past year have created new bonds of confidence between us and the people we work with, a confidence needed to overcome the problems of the most vulnerable groups—the landless, small and marginal farmers, women etc.

We wish to thank especially the State Governments of West Bengal and Orissa for all the cooperation we have enjoyed throughout the year; our thanks also to other voluntary organisations.

Last but not least, our thanks to our Head Office in Geneva and our donors for the confidence shown in our work.

February, 1986.

AAGE LARSEN

PREM (PLANNING, RESEARCH, EVALUATION & MONITORING) UNIT

The spirit of sharing, love and concern for the underprivileged represents the foundation on which LWS is built. This spirit is the driving force that nurtures and sustains LWS as an organisation. Thence, PREM meaning love in many Indian languages, is probably the most symbolic and apt acronym for the Planning, Research, Evaluation and Monitoring Unit.

The PREM Unit consists of two segments — Programme Section which is a part of LWS India Management and the PREM Cell, a body of specialists in various disciplines from outside LWS India.

Programme Section oversees the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, collects and collates data, acts as a conduit for dissemination of information and reports events.

The PREM Cell, with its expertise in areas related to socio-cultural and economic development, is a consultative and advisory body to the Management; helps in building up competence in areas of planning, evaluation and monitoring, within the LWS-India structure and among target population.

During the year the Programme Section and PREM Cell jointly initiated and undertook a series of measures including workshop exercises to enhance the process of participatory planning by the target population in different programme areas.

In Jangal Mahal, the series of workshops on 'People's Planning' initiated in 1984, culminated in a final workshop during 1985. The success of these exercises in participatory planning techniques became evident during the year, with members of the target population becoming increasingly involved in the decision making process.

In the Project WHAT areas, the thrust initially was on building up staff capabilities in context of participatory planning, review and monitoring techniques.

Formation of mahila mandals (women's groups), youth groups, functional groups consisting of people having common interests and village committees, continued to receive emphasis as a means to promote people's organisations and collective functioning.

The emergence of collective leadership, creation of village revolving funds, community grain bank and people's increased participation in the decision making process are signs that augur well for the development of the people in the programme areas.

Inputs were also provided by the PREM Cell to strengthen the Development Communication Unit (DCU) of LWS India so that the potential of this important unit could be tapped to its fullest.

The new Kultali Project was assisted to define its approach me-

thodology and draw up relevant strategies for involving the target population in the development process right from the inception of the project.

The International Evaluation Team during their visit to LWS India programmes in the latter part of 1984 recommended certain revisions, which were incorporated and a revised Terms of Reference for the PREM Cell came into being during 1985.

The PREM Cell members, at their meetings during the year continuously reviewed their own performance as well as the different development programmes. This continuous analysis resulted in certain modifications of the PREM Cell's role and functioning. In addition to being a consultative body, the PREM Cell also assumed an advisory role and this resulted in PREM Cell's increased involvement in LWS India's development programmes.

Forward planning by the PREM Cell envisaged undertaking jointly with Programme Section and the DCU during 1986, a series of studies and workshops on issues related to Planning and Evaluation, Problems of Landless, Problems of Women, Development of Local Organisations and Leadership, Communication and Education for Development and an evaluation of the LWS India Emergency & Rehabilitation Activities.

The Programme Section continued to make efforts to further develop and increase LWS India's collaboration with other national, Government and Non-Government organisations and the UNICEF. Action for Food Production (AFPRO), who are specialists in water development continued to extend excellent technical support to our geohydrological team in Project WHAT areas. The State Governments and the concerned district administrations expressed appreciation of LWS India's activities and continued to participate/ co-operate in many important spheres.

During 1985 the PREM Cell consisted of:

Dr. Prodipto Roy, Chairman
Sociologist
Kathmandu,
Nepal.

Dr. B. R. Patil
Sociologist
New Delhi.

Dr. A. K. Bhattacharyya
Agronomist
Calcutta.

Mr. S. K. Chakraborty
Indian Administrative Service (IAS)
Retired,
Calcutta.

Mr. S. J. Nathan (upto March, 1985)

Mr. Neville Pradhan
Programme Secretary of LWS India
& Member-Secretary.

WATER, HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE TRIDENT (WHAT)

Project WHAT metamorphosed from the Water Resources Project (WRP) of Lutheran World Service India. While the WRP concentrated mainly on provision of potable drinking water through drilling of rig bored tubewells, Project WHAT aimed at establishing a micro-regional integrated project based on the concept of watershed management, in the vicinity of Chotanagpur plateau region, covering the districts of Mayurbhanj in Orissa and Purulia in West Bengal. The project became operational in the beginning of 1983. The present project area consists of 65 villages, covering a population of 26,000 people as per table.

District	Block	No. of Villages		Population	
		Total	Coverage	Total	Coverage
Mayurbhanj	Jamda	79	21	44439	13000
	Bijatola	153	20	45767	3000
Purulia	Bandwan	135	24	60000	10000
Total		367	65	150206	26000

While the predominant population is tribal, a sprinkling of scheduled caste, muslims and other general caste people is also evident. All the three blocks are drought-prone, undeveloped and backward, located in remote areas and have similar topography and soil conditions, which is most often poor in texture and composition. Ironically, the degraded and unfertile soil, particularly in the higher regions, normally belong to the poor and marginal farmers.

Though the annual average precipitation is between 1360 mm and 1650 mm, the advantages of the rainfall is considerably lost due to the undulating terrain and the low water retention capacity of the soil. Despite agriculture being the major occupation, a majority of the land-owning population practice mono-cropping under rainfed conditions, due to lack of sufficient irrigation facilities.

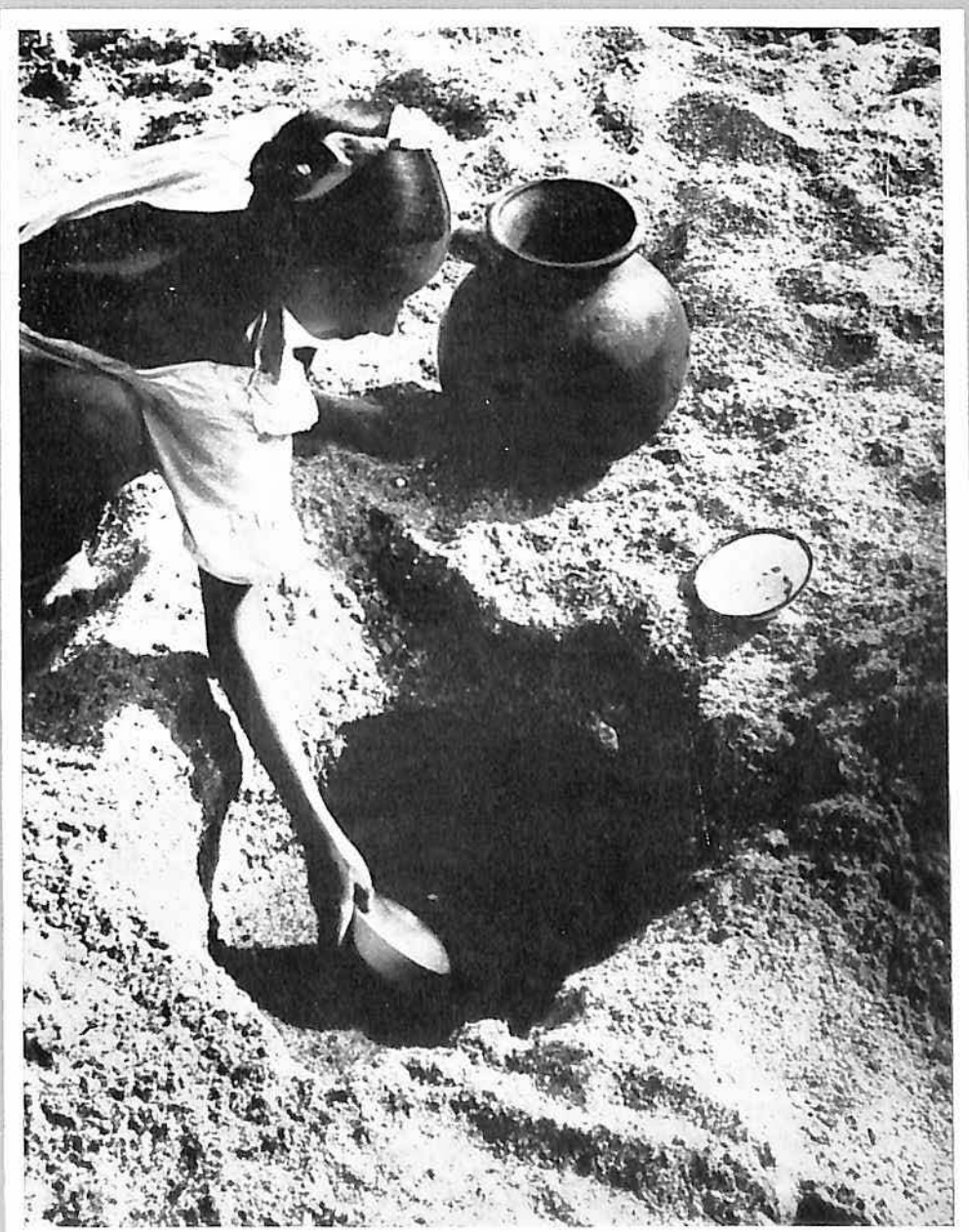
Project WHAT based on watershed management, focuses on the optimum use of precipitation through improved water, soil and crop management as well as stabilization of agriculture in and around the watersheds. This programme revolves largely around effective conservation methods and the utilization of local resources to bring about qualitative changes in people's lives.

The Project lays stress on people's participation and involvement as pre-conditions for achieving the stated goals. As a result, people are motivated and subsequently imparted education/training to strengthen their capacity to receive and utilise the inputs and services. Great importance has been attached to local/village level planning, which is designed to ensure people's participation in the formulation, implementation, evaluation and sharing of benefits accruing through various activities.

Development activities initiated in 1985 included development of water resources both for drinking and irrigation purposes on watershed management basis, provision and extension of agricultural inputs and services, provision of health services, education and training, developing village crafts, creating avenues of supplementary income through various income generating schemes etc.

Furthermore, the project laid particular emphasis on organising the people, enabling them to involve themselves in the decision-making process. These organisations were in the forms of functional groups, mahila samities (women groups), youth groups and village committees. These groups were organised around common activities ranging from social and cultural to economic. In the process, formation of community capital and resources as well as use and recycling of funds for the community's welfare took root and flourished.

WATER—Development of water resources with a view to stabilizing agriculture and improving crop yields in the programme area can only be achieved through optimum use of precipitation of the area by one or more of the following means:



Impure water is a major cause for the high incidence of water-borne diseases

DRINKING WATER RESOURCES

At the start of the UN sponsored International Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Decade (1981-90)—the Indian Government had indicated to the United Nations that by 1990 it would try to cover all the villages and towns of India with clean drinking water supplies. There were more than 100,000 problem villages which had no assured water source within a mile (1.6 km) or, even if they existed, were extremely polluted.

More than halfway through the decade, the commitment thus serves as an impetus to step up efforts to increase water supply.

The situation in the eastern region of India is particularly critical due to the frequent occurrence of droughts, giving yet another dimension to the crisis.

To cater to the drinking water needs of people who were subjected to extreme hardships and difficulties, the Lutheran World Service about nine years ago, initiated the Water Resources Project in the district of Purulia, West Bengal. In course of years, the project extended its operational area to Mayurbhanj district in the neighbouring state of Orissa.

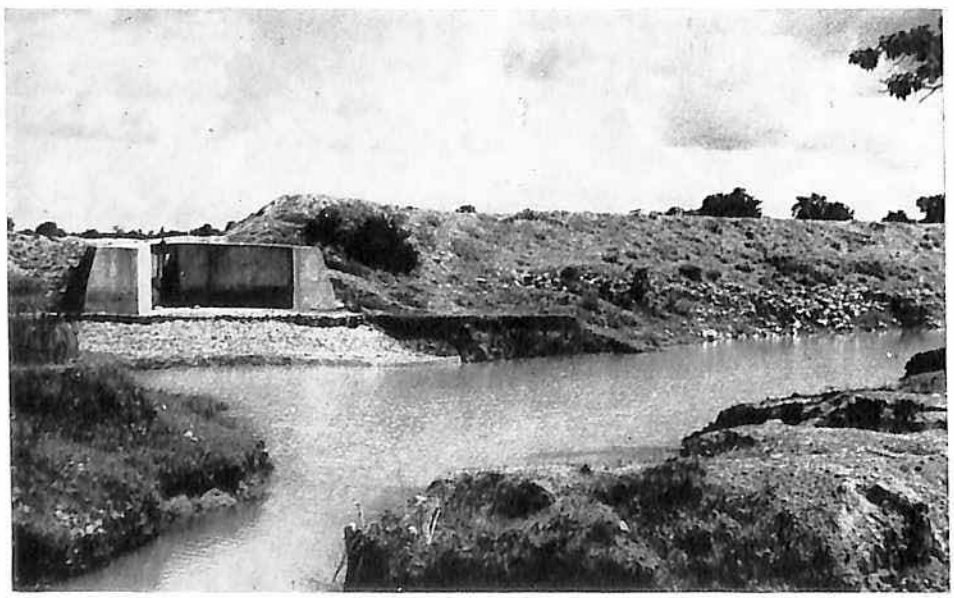
Tank excavation in Mayurbhanj

. By improving infiltration of rainfall into the soil and thus making more soil water available for plant use.

. Through drainage, collection, storage and re-utilisation of runoff.

. By water recovery from wells after deep percolation beyond the root profile.

To enhance the infiltration of rainfall, bunding, strip cropping, establishment of grass cover as well as sequential planting were advocated and demonstrated to the farmers of the programme area. Various conservation measures including land development covered 109 acres and 18 acres, benefitting 175 and 9 families in Mayurbhanj and Bandwan—Purulia, respectively.



Irrigation water reservoir at Bandwan

During 1985, the drilling operations were confined to the districts of Purulia and Birbhum in West Bengal and Mayurbhanj in Orissa.

As in previous years, a high level of co-operation and collaboration was maintained with UNICEF, the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) of the respective State Governments as well as the Panchayats.

In addition to its normal drilling activities which included well revitalization, the WRP team in Birbhum also undertook installation of handpumps as well as platform construction.

Apart from drilling costs which were borne by Lutheran World Service, the local Government bore all other expenses related to the drinking water programme in the district.

In Purulia and Mayurbhanj, the teams concentrated on drilling borewells while the PHED undertook all other post-drilling activities which included installation of handpumps and platform construction. Cost of casing pipes and sockets were reimbursed to Lutheran World Service by the PHED.

In addition, UNICEF contributed the drilling cost including that of casing pipes and sockets in respect of 8 borewells drilled in Purulia district.

In Mayurbhanj, test bores were drilled to determine the geological formation at the site of a proposed check weir.

To increase the water storage for supplemental 'life saving' irrigation during drought periods, 14 tanks and ponds were excavated in both the programme areas. Runoff as well as surface water thus collected, proved immensely beneficial for the winter crop. Further down the gradient, recovery of water for recycling was achieved through construction of ring wells, dug wells and bore-cum-dug wells.

The initial apathy and reluctance to accept ring wells as it represented a new untested technology, gave way to renewed vigour and enthusiasm for this technology during the later part of the year, when the effectiveness of the ring wells became evident.

For many, who had traditionally been practising mono-cropping due to lack of water, growing a second crop represented the beginning of a new economic and work cycle.

During the year, 15 ring wells were constructed for irrigating 23 acres of land in Mayurbhanj, and 8 ring wells to irrigate 8 acres in Bandwan. Three bore-cum-dug wells in Mayurbhanj and 4 in Bandwan were constructed to cover 32 acres of land. One dug well constructed in Bandwan covered 8 acres of land due to its extremely high recharge capacity. During 1985, altogether 85 acres in Mayurbhanj and 131 acres in Bandwan-Purulia were brought under irrigation. Construction of 11 tanks, 3 check weirs, 8 ring wells and 1 bore-cum-dug well were in progress at the end of the year.

It is envisaged that the direct effect of improved surface and ground water utilisation will be substantial, particularly in years of low or ill-distributed and erratic rainfall. Of extreme importance would be the substantial decrease in

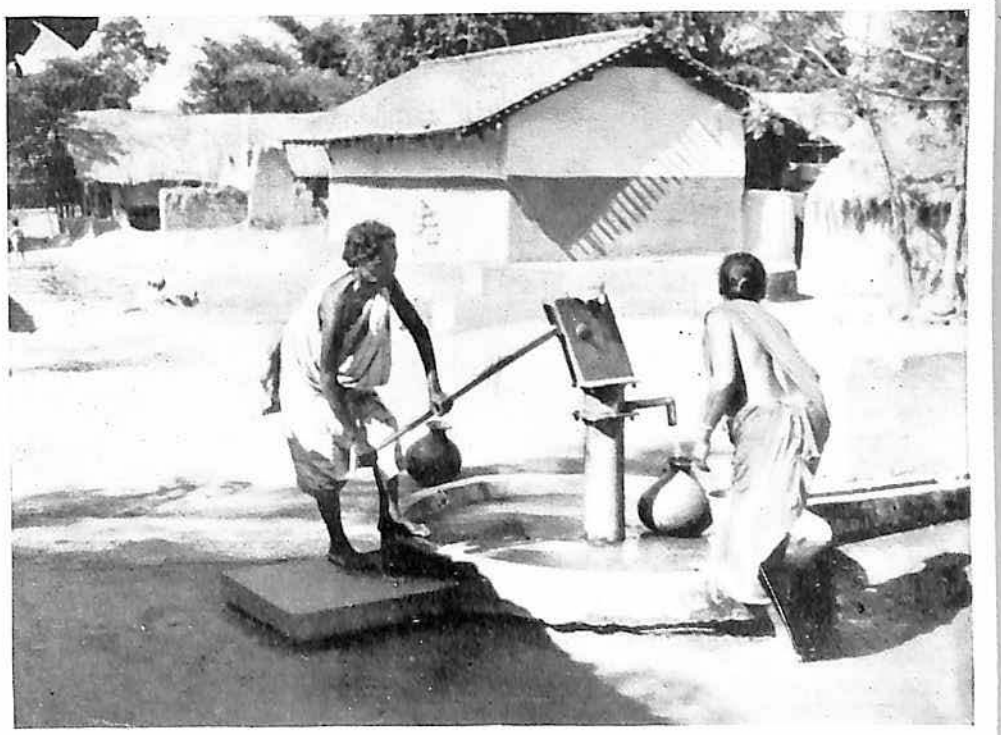
Drilling for safe drinking water

Without exception, the people participated in the programme by contributing free labour for building approach roads, providing water for flushing borewells and making available temporary accommodation for the drilling crews.

During the year, a total of 142 wells were successfully drilled at an average depth of 130 feet and in-well drilling was undertaken in 11 wells. Together, these wells served nearly 30,600 people in 142 villages in the three operational areas.

Geophysical and geo-hydrological studies by the Ground Water Investigation Team (GIT) enabled the drilling crews in the different areas to locate precise sites where sufficient ground water was available, thus reducing the possibility of dry bores to a minimum.

Training was imparted to five members of the drilling team, in Rig maintenance. The Birbhum drilling Unit imparted month long training in drilling operations to two United Evangelical Lutheran Church of India (UELCI) staff, prior to transfer of the Birbhum rig to Madras, to assist the UELCI in their endeavour to provide potable water to the villagers.



A dream comes true—safe drinking water at their doorsteps

Non-comprehensive area

Drilling

Physical Achievement	Drinking water wells	Revitalised wells	Total
Purulia	75	4	79
Birbhum	23	7	30
Mayurbhanj	44	—	44
Total:	142	11	153

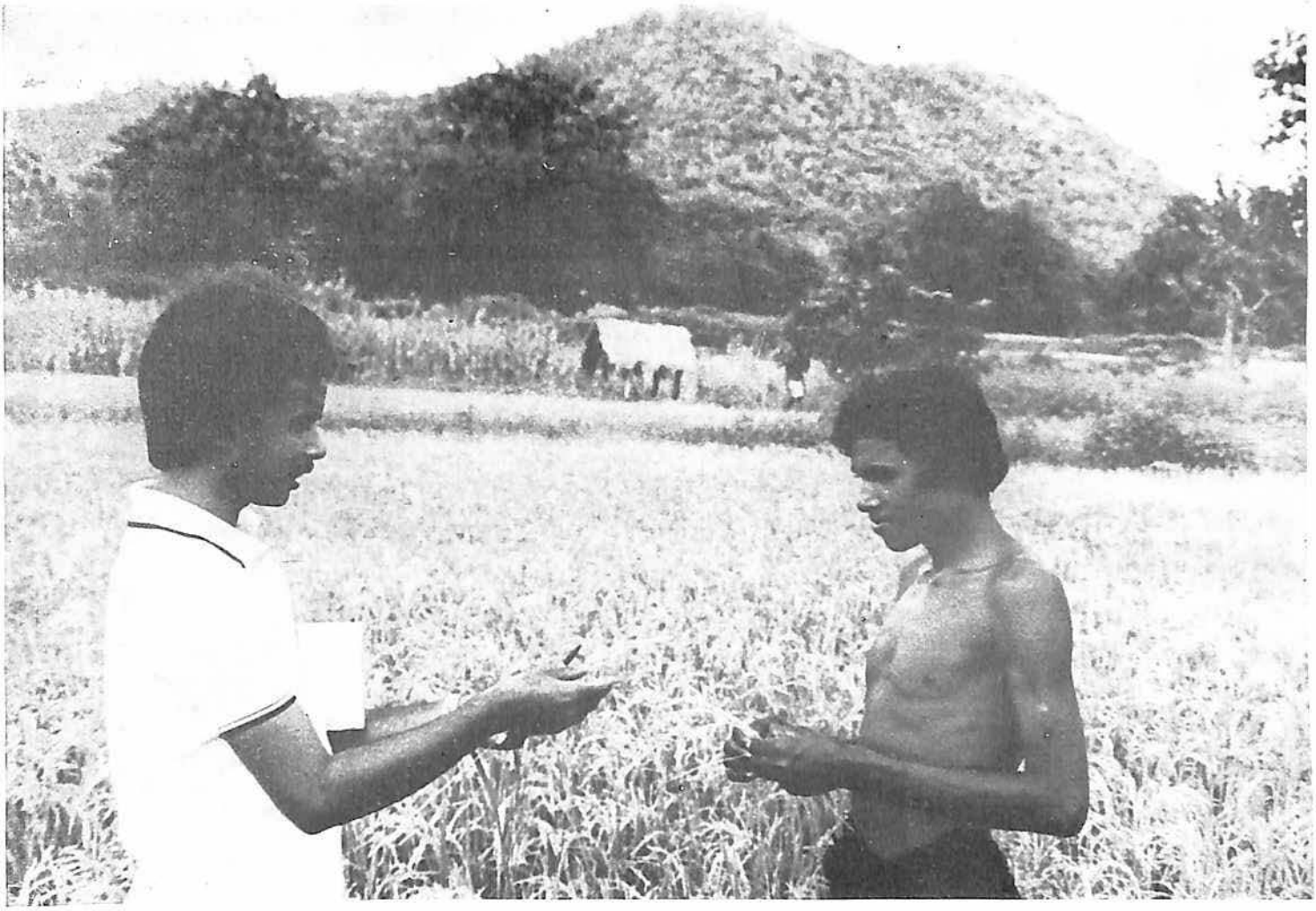
Level of Participation (in percent)

Programme Area	Government	L.W.S.	People	Others
Purulia	22.7	66.2	1.0	10.1
Birbhum	12.2	85.4	0.2	2.2
Mayurbhanj	40.2	59.6	0.2	—

Tubewell Installation & Platform Construction (Birbhum)

Physical Achievement	—	23 tubewells
	Participatory Inputs (in percent)	
	Panchayat 100% (Rs. 60,206)	L.W.S.*

* LWS extended services in terms of monitoring and ensuring implementation of the project.



Extension Worker shares expertise with farmer

the risk of production. Reduced uncertainty would provide the basis for assured profitability, as well as ensure greater response to other inputs such as improved seeds and fertilizers.

AGRICULTURE — People in villages are most often, either underemployed or unemployed for fairly long periods due to the seasonal nature of farming. As a result, majority of the rural population lead their lives under a constant threat of deprivation. Age-old agricultural practices, coupled with lack of capital inputs and uncertainity in supply of water represents the greatest hurdle to adoption of the modern improved methods of farming. Despite these limitations appropriate agricultural techniques were promoted with the primary aim to motivate and educate farmers as well as to enhance their agricultural production by proper management of the available natural resources, particularly water and soil. In order to apply and sustain new technology, it is necessary to prune and present the technology in a form that suits the target population's environment, especially their culture and economy. Consequently, particular emphasis was laid on demonstrations, using improved seeds and practices and introduction of new crops having greater economic viability. Additionally, conservation, plant protection, land development and water management represented the main thrust of the agricultural programme. Agricultural assistance in the form of seeds and fertiliser inputs were also provided to individual farmers through their respective committees. Besides, ensuring collective functioning and involvement of the people in the decision making process the value of these inputs are returned by the individuals to their village committees to help in formation as well as growth of Village Revolving Funds.

The project staff motivated farmers to undertake cultivation of traditional as well as new crops on small plots of land with a view to

Agriculture demonstration for effective transfer of improved methods

demonstrate to the farmers the difference between use of improved methods vis-a-vis local practices.

Soil conservation, strip cropping, bunding, contour bunding, plant protection measures etc. represented various forms of demonstration. Three hundred and ten plots were undertaken for purposes of demonstration of the major monsoon and winter crops, the results of which were extremely encouraging. More than 1000 farmers visited these plots as part of their group discussion exercises, field visits and exchange programmes. The enthusiasm, displayed by the visiting groups as well as the people of the community at large, amply proved the virtues of 'seeing is believing'.

During the year, 1461 acres covering 1579 families in Mayurbhanj and 152 acres covering 608 families in Bandwan, were provided with seed and fertilizer assistance.

OTHER ECONOMIC MEASURES—Since Agriculture represents a seasonal occupation for most, a majority of the target population have to depend on subsidiary sources of income for their survival. Strangely enough, however, these subsidiary or secondary sources for various reasons, are quite often not nurtured to its full potential. Factors including linkage with local resources, available skills and market facilities would thus represent fairly important considerations for strengthening and enlarging the scope of these secondary sources. Against this backdrop, economically viable and feasible income generation schemes of varied nature were promoted through groups as well as through individuals, to augment people's incomes. While goatkeeping, piggery, pisciculture, grain banks, 'babui' grass cultivation, 'mohua' banks and cottage industries, including bamboo crafts, lac and tassar (sericulture) cultivation, weaving etc. found favour as community/functional group ventures, petty trades, garment trading, cycle repairing, carpentry, tailoring, blacksmithy etc. focussed very much on the individual.

During the year 487 families in Mayurbhanj and 400 families in Bandwan were assisted to augment their incomes through the above mentioned economic measures.

PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION AND VILLAGE REVOLVING FUND—The problem of poverty is, however, vast and complex and requires concentrated efforts, not only by the men but also by the youth and women. Concerns of the youth and women not only received attention but were also incorporated in the communities development plans. Women through their associations and representative groups participated in designing as well as implementing various programmes. Similarly, the youth in the programme areas took active interest in various activities and in strengthening their communities. Through activities such as Sports, Drama etc. the youth played the role of ambassadors for their communities and very often represented the medium, through which the pace of change and development quickened.

'Babui' grass rope-making—an important source of income during the lean season

The village committees in particular provided excellent service to their communities. Village Revolving Funds were utilised to assist marginal farmers and farmers rendered landless, to release their mortgaged lands from money-lenders and large landholders. Community funds were used in many instances to prevent distress sale of paddy, 'babui' grass and 'mahua' flowers by weaker members of the community to merchants and money-lenders. Grain loans were made available to villagers during the lean season through establishment of grain banks. Individuals as well as groups were assisted through the fund to start economic ventures of their own. The concept of village revolving fund gained wider acceptance during the year, culminating in the fund being established in nearly all the villages of the programme area.

The total amount generated in the form of village revolving fund amounted to Rs. 245,000/- and Rs. 70,000/- in Mayurbhanj and Bandwan respectively.

In Bandwan approximately Rs. 16,000/- was re-cycled by the committees and functional groups, assisting 294 families in agriculture, grain loans, petty businesses, 'babui' grass cultivation, bamboo crafts, rope-making etc.

In Mayurbhanj, 241 families benefited from the village fund. Approximately Rs. 38,000/- was re-cycled for a wide range of activities such as purchase of agricultural inputs, pisciculture, weaving, varied employment generation schemes, lac cultivation etc.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

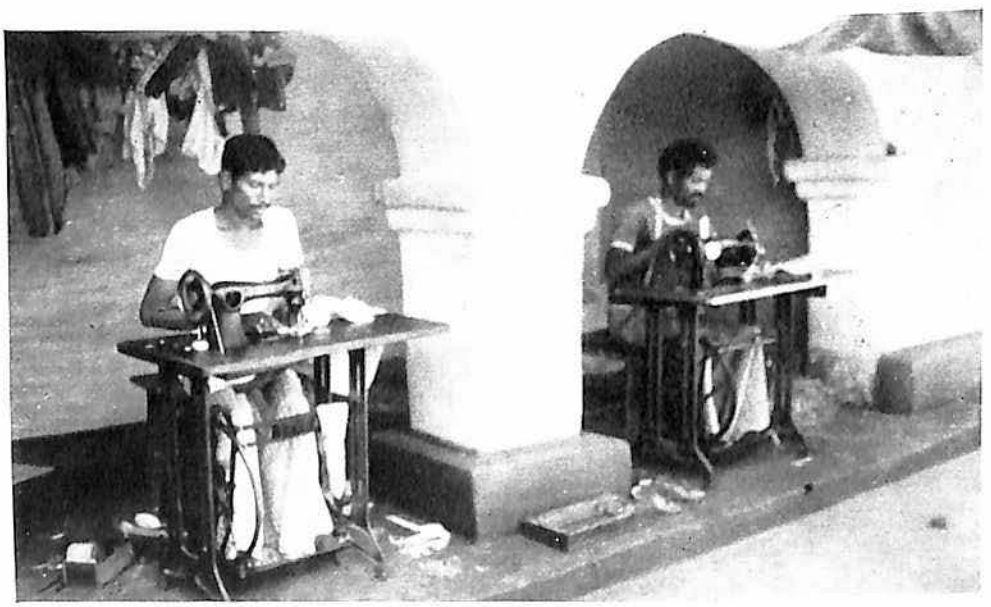
—Illiteracy is regarded as a major obstacle in the social and economic development of the people. Non-formal education for adults often opens the door to knowledge, through which an adult receives education and enlightenment, that provides him with an impetus to strive for further development. NFE as well as TWS (Training, Workshop and Seminar) represent tools to develop such human resources.

Apart from creating a feeling of togetherness among adults, NFE in different forms helps many to take the first few steps to free themselves from the shackles of ignorance and social servility. Consequently integration of the adult with the wider social environment occurs, which is often the natural reality. The NFE programme as well as TWS' were geared to promote these adjustments to change, so that the individual becomes both agent and object of social and economic development. The NFE centres were also used to impart occupational skills to the target people. Apart from the NFE teachers, LWS staff have been using the NFE centres as forums for discussions with students as well as to impart education in various spheres relating to the students' livelihood and environment.

During the year, a total of 836 students received education through 42 NFE centres in the programme areas. In addition, training on Health, Watershed Management, Animal Husbandry, Video operation, Operation of small machines, Beekeeping, Tailoring, Carpentry, Pisciculture etc. were imparted to 75 percent of the staff and 245 members of the target population.

Improved methods of vegetable cultivation have increased yields

Members of the Groundwater Investigation Team of AFPRO (Action for Food Production) Patna unit conducted a two week training programme on Watershed Management mainly for the staff within the programme area. This training programme not only broadened the staff's perspective, but also helped them to identify potential sites for development of suitable irrigation infrastructures.



Members of the target population were assisted to start ventures of their own

HEALTH—While on one hand the health programme received active government support and participation, particularly in immunization and supply of nutritional supplements, the health team on the other hand concentrated in conducting as well as providing the necessary preventive and promotive aspects of health care. Family Planning programme was promoted in harmony with local needs of the people, with special emphasis on the care of women and children.

Malnutrition coupled with diarrhoea is a common phenomenon among the children in the rural areas. Malaria, skin diseases, vitamin deficiencies and other common ailments also cause untold harm to the mothers, children and the community at large. Health education imparted through various media like Flash-cards, Flip-charts, Posters, Flannel Graph, Video, Slide Projector, as well as through group discussions and home visits stressed increasingly on the preventive aspects, highlighting the cause, effect and prevention of many of these afflictions. Oral rehydration therapy hailed as one of the medical miracles of the Century was continuously demonstrated by the health workers to the women folk of the intensive care areas in Mayurbhanj as well as in Bandwan.

One Balwadi (Day care centre for Children), with active government support was organised in the Mayurbhanj area. In both the programme areas, the health team frequently participated in promoting agriculture, animal husbandry, small scale industry and various other activities to achieve integration and self-reliance.

Regular weight plotting is important for monitoring the child's growth

During the year 48 people including 23 staff were imparted training in community health.

Community medical funds continued to increase and grow in numbers with more and more individuals as well as communities realising the importance of such funds.

In intensive care, 7,000 people and under Peripheral care 10,000 people were covered in the programme area.

Participation and representation at block and district level meetings, increased extension services in the major activity spheres, partial reimbursements of costs of drinking water tubewells etc. represented the governments' involvement and interest in the development process initiated by LWS (I).

Preparation of Oral Rehydration Solution being demonstrated to mothers

WATER

Area	Drinking		Irrigation			
	Tube-well	Revitalised well	Dug well	Bore-cum Dug well	Ring well	Tanks Bunds Reservoirs
Mayurbhanj	–	–	–	3	15	8
Purulia	2	–	1	4	8	6

AGRICULTURE

Area	Crop Area (in acres)	Farmers covered	Participatory Inputs (in percent)	
			People	LWS
Mayurbhanj	1,461	1,579	79	21
Purulia	152	608	77	23

AGRICULTURE (DEMONSTRATION)

Area	Number of plots	Area (in acres)	Farmers covered
Mayurbhanj	302	104	484
Purulia	8	3	11

SOCIAL/COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Area	Units (assorted plants)	People covered
Mayurbhanj	1,205	324
Purulia	597	150

CROP PROTECTION

Area	Farmers covered	Number of villages
Mayurbhanj	171	22
Purulia	18	12

LAND DEVELOPMENT/SOIL MANAGEMENT

Area	Acreage	Families benefited
Mayurbhanj	109	175
Purulia	18	9

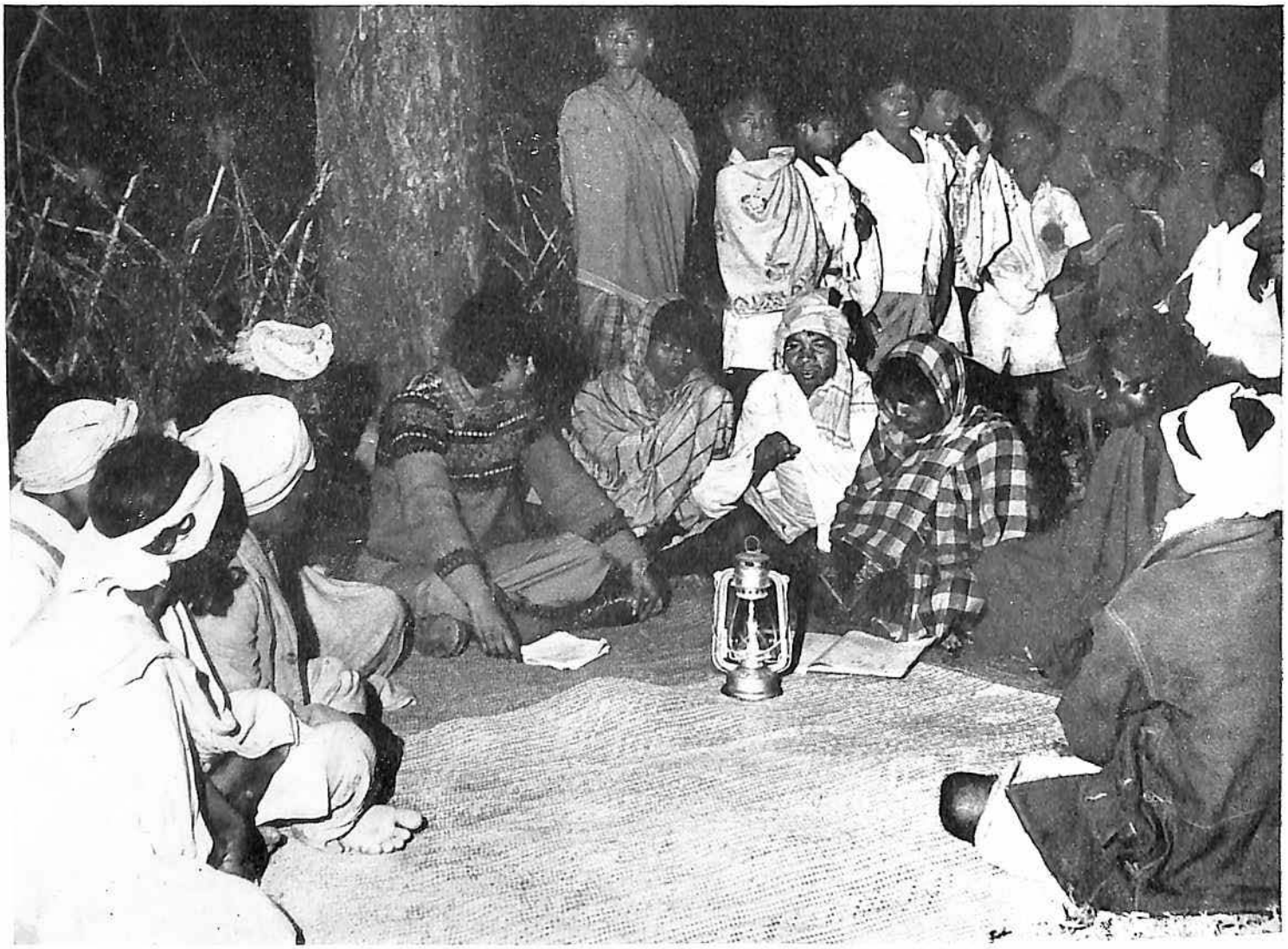
INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

Type	Unit	Families benefitted
Goatkeeping	478	102
Piggery	6	3
Pisciculture	8	214
Lac Cultivation	187 Kgs.	77
Tassar (Sericulture)	8	8
Community Grain bank	32,727 Kgs.	188
Mahua bank	10	10
Blacksmithy	2	2
Carpentry	1	1
Bamboo crafts	22	30
Babui grass rope-making	10,225 Kgs.	240
Petty trades and others	12	12

TRAINING, WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS (TWS):

Subject	Staff	People	Total
Waterpump maintenance	6	44	50
Watershed management	19	—	19
Rig maintenance	5	—	5
Community health	23	25	48
Promotion of rural health	1	—	1
NFE teachers training	14	48	62
TWS needs	36	—	36
Theatre/Puppetry	5	16	21
Pisciculture	1	6	7
Animal husbandry	11	38	49
Cycle repairing	—	2	2
Lac cultivation	7	44	51
Home baking (Bread)	—	6	6
Tassar (Sericulture)	—	4	4
Agriculture	23	—	23
Mushroom cultivation	1	—	1
Accounts & Stores	28	—	28
Bamboo crafts	—	7	7
Entrepreneurship	7	5	12
Total:-	187	245	432

BURDWAN PROJECTS



People's participation in the decision making process continued to receive emphasis. Consequently several new self-supportive and self-reliant people's structures emerged while existing bodies were further strengthened.

During the year, village committee members and other villagers including a large percentage of the youth conducted household surveys, participated in the tabulation, analysed the results and drew up development plans for their villages/ areas, as well as formulated specific socio-economic projects.

Out of 42 hamlets, 39 village Committees had by the year-end completed the household survey and tabulation of the data. Using this

data 36 Committees prepared socio-economic development plans for their respective villages.

A radical change has occurred in the peoples concepts and thinking. The general apathy and self-centredness appears to have receded and in its place a new dynamism coupled with concern for the community has emerged. Fifteen village committees have been reconstituted, with the educated village youth playing a prominent role in the reconstitution process.

A discernable shift in emphasis from individual projects to group activities resulted in the formation of 30 functional groups in spheres of pisciculture, agriculture, horticulture, irrigation and village crafts.

In their planning document the target people highlighted the need for training in areas such as:

- Livestock Management,
- Small-scale & Cottage Industries,
- Improved Agricultural Methods & Practices,
- Operation and maintenance of water pumps,
- Community Health.

The most interesting feature, however, has been the communities increased concern for the landless labourers and the marginal farmers, groups which had hitherto been neglected. Issues most frequently articulated delved on measures to assist the landless and marginal farmers' groups to free themselves from the clutches of the moneylenders, which is viewed as a prime cause of their socio-economic despair.

Setting up community grain banks to help the economically weaker groups were proposed by various communities as possible short term as well as long term solutions. Consequently four grain banks were established in four hamlets.

An irrigation channel carries water to the fields

During the year, training was imparted to the staff in puppetry and preparation of audio-visual aids, social work, community health, agriculture and composite fish farming. A refresher course was conducted for 24 Non-Formal Education teachers, while 448 other members of the target population underwent training in Improved Agricultural Practices, Development of Orchards on degraded upland soil, Beekeeping, Repair & Maintenance of Pumpsets and Composite Fish Farming.

Having gained a certain knowledge and expertise in agri-horticulture through various training programmes, the Lady Extension Workers in particular, successfully motivated members of the target population including housewives and other village women to start kitchen gardens in the vacant patches of their homestead land. While this enhanced the nutrition intake of the families concerned, benefitting particularly the children, it also augmented the families income from sale of surplus produce. Seeds, seedlings, fertilizers and technical know-how were provided by the project to 574 families in 26 hamlets.

In the sphere of Agriculture, 988 farmers were assisted with seeds and fertilisers to cover 559 acres. Provision of technical expertise during crucial periods proved extremely beneficial, resulting in significant increases in crop yields.

Sixty-four farmers availed the services of the soil testing laboratory set up in the central complex. Moreover, 185 diseased and pest infested specimens of various crops were also examined in the plant protection diagnostic laboratory attached to the soil testing unit. The causative agents were diagnosed and control measures were recommended. This service enabled the farmers to take necessary corrective measures for improving their agricultural land as well as the standing

crops and subsequently increase their crop yields.

Seven and a half acres of barren upland was brought under horticulture and orchard cultivation benefiting 22 farmers. Sinking of four shallow tubewells and revitalisation of one tubewell enabled 40 farmers to cover 21 acres under multiple cropping.

The sub-centres as well as the central complex distributed vegetable seeds and seedlings to farmers from their respective nurseries-cum-demonstration plots. Improved strains of paddy as well as pulses, oilseeds, wheat and vegetables were cultivated in the demonstration plots as a means to teach and demonstrate to the farmers, techniques and benefits of improved agricultural methods.

Farmer and extension worker discuss the crops

Thirty-one members of the target population comprising five functional groups were assisted to start composite pisciculture programmes of their own. Technical expertise and necessary guidance was provided by the project staff as well as by members of the target population who had received training earlier in artificial breeding of fish and composite fish culture.

In the sphere of other economic measures 336 marginal farmers and landless families were assisted to start their own ventures in the shape of rice processing units, livestock breeding, village crafts, beekeeping, groceries and other small business units. The activities were co-ordinated with the local Panchayat as well as the Government development agencies to avoid duplication in efforts.

Kitchen garden—a source of income as well as nutrition for the family

Without exception beneficiary lists were prepared by the village committees, which also had the sanction of their respective communities.

Three hundred and three men and eighty five women were imparted functional literacy through 25 non-formal education centres spread over the entire project area.

Multipurpose centres constructed in the programme area functioned as meeting place for the village community/committee, in addition to being used as NFE Centres as well as centres for promotion of physical and cultural activities among the village youth.

Youth clubs and a tribal drama group were assisted with material aid to help increase their scope of activities. Youth clubs, drama

groups and associations of a similar nature, comprised chiefly of village youths play a vital role in the rural population's social milieu. Enlightened progressive groups influence and radically change the mental make up of many an oppressed villager and community.

The youth in Jangal Mahal have of late played a significant role in the development of the area and are providing new leadership. Many of the reconstituted village committees comprise of youths, who have the blessings of their elders. The pace of work has also quickened and a resurgence of various activities is quite evident in all spheres.

Out of 41 village committees 15 were reconstituted during 1985. Formal meetings as well as the emphasis on establishing inter-personal relationship with members of the target population were major contributory factors in formation of functional groups, promotion of youth clubs, increased involvement by the women and reconstitution/ strengthening of village committees.

Increased awareness about health matters and a desire to improve their health status ensured further integration of the health programme with other facets of the development programme.

The medical programme continued to lay stress on the preventive and promotive aspects of health care. Curative services were also extended to the peripheral hamlets of the programme area.

Training on Community Health was organised for members of the target population in collaboration with the West Bengal Voluntary Health Association. The response was spontaneous and extremely encouraging.

Women are becoming increasingly involved in the development process

There appears to be a growing consciousness and desire among the target population to learn more about Community Health and what it means. It is evident that the community is gradually preparing itself to meet its own primary health needs. Regular home visits and immunization programmes had a visible impact on the nutritional status as well as health awareness of the target population.

The concept of capital formation through the village revolving fund gained further ground during the year. The ill effects of two consecutive droughts during the early eighties behind them and the economy having somewhat stabilized, many communities progressed fairly rapidly towards establishing self-reliant socio-economic structures.

During the year 34 village committees opened Bank accounts and accumulated in their revolving fund an amount of Rs. 71,000 of which Rs. 22,000 was redistributed as loans to the target population for productive purposes.

The inclusion of Scheduled Caste landless families in the ambit of LWS programmes from 1983 has not only reduced disparities and brought about the desired social integration, but has also helped create conditions of healthy competition among the scheduled tribe and the schedule caste, the two major target groups. Despite becoming the focus of development assistance fairly recently, the scheduled caste group has achieved moderate success in their development efforts.

AGRICULTURE

Type	Crop Area (in acres)	Farmers Covered	Participatory Inputs (in percent)	
			Farmers	L.W.S.
Harvested Crop	463	470	83	17
Standing Crop	96	518	—	—

Increase in yield per acre vis-a-vis local variety		(in %)
Winter crops harvested in early 1985		
Mustard	—	27
Wheat	—	33
Potato	—	86
Summer/Monsoon Paddy		
Short duration varieties	—	36
Medium duration varieties	—	65
Local variety with improved management	—	14

HORTICULTURE

	Fruit Plants
No. of saplings	1234
Families benefited	37

KITCHEN GARDEN

Type of Crop	Acres	People
Vegetables	18	574

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

No. of centres	25
Student strength	388

TRAINING WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR (TWS)

Type	Staff	People
People's Planning	31	27
Agriculture	13	263
Establishment & Maintenance of orchards in upland soil	5	17
Refresher course for NFE teachers	11	24
Bee-keeping	5	64
Social workers (women)	15	20
Pump repair & maintenance	—	19
Community health	9	25
Pisciculture	2	2
Puppetry & A.V. aids	—	11

INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

Type	Unit	Families benefited
Paddy processing	4380 kgs	24
Sal leaf plate making	54500 pcs	6
Pisciculture	5	31
Animal Husbandry	848	216
Carpentry	1	1
Bamboo basket making	142 pcs	11
Petty trades	4	4
Traditional water lifting device	3	9
Community grain bank	2970 kgs	65

INFRASTRUCTURE

Item	Unit	
	Completed	In progress
Drinking Water Well	5	3
Drinking Water Tubewell	20	—
Shallow Tubewell (irrigation)	5	—
Well Platform & Parapet	22	—
Test Bores	13	—
Culvert-cum-weir	6	—
School	2	3
Multipurpose centres	5	2
House repair	2	—
Road	3.6 km	—

CALCUTTA PROJECTS

A result of haphazard and unplanned growth, Calcutta supports a staggering population of more than 10 million of which 3 million or so are estimated to be living in slums, shanty towns, on canal and railway embankments and the city pavements. Besides, utter lack of privacy, there is an agonizing inadequacy of water supply, drainage, sanitation, housing, educational and employment opportunities.

Calcutta Programme, initiated in 1976, continues development activities among pavement and embankment dwelling families, slum dwellers and squatter settlement residents through three service centres established at different locations within the city. While the Entally Centre is situated right within the heart of the city, the centres at Ultadanga and Salt Lake are situated at the northern and eastern peripheries of the city respectively.

The Calcutta Programme through various projects extends services to approximately 90,000 population. The projects are implemented in collaboration with several local welfare organisations, banks, government and semi-government institutions. The activities in progress are primary schools, non-formal education centres, vocational training schemes for promotion of self-employment and income generation, community health services, housing resettlement programme at Salt Lake and night shelter for destitutes at Ultadanga.

A major portion of the activities are carried out at locations within the target areas. Training programmes are organised internally at the three centres, at external training institutions and at suitable sites amidst the people with assistance of professional trainers from voluntary as well as private commercial sectors.

The first generation of migrants and refugees had the benefits of some basic education and the traditional skills. Living as they are on pavements and embankments, the children of these migrants have been denied opportunities for education and training. Their socio-economic environments compel the children of this deprived section of the population to look for employment from an early age. Without the benefits of education and training, their opportunities would be limited and incomes meagre. Education is the foundation, on which the structures of progress can be built. Recognising this vital need for education LWS is making concerted efforts to provide the children of these communities basic education and training.

Calcutta Projects started activities among these groups with non-formal education centres for the children of pavement and embankment dweller families. The pavement schools are managed by the Community Services Society, a voluntary organisation formed by teachers of the pavement schools and other likeminded individuals. In 1985, the pavement schools numbering 27, had a strength of approximately 1200 students.

Other major steps in this direction are the primary schools at Ultadanga, Salt Lake and Entally. While imparting the knowledge of literacy and numeracy, efforts are also made to instill in the child, qualities of self-confidence and self-respect. Group activities designed to develop qualities of leadership, team spirit and discipline play a major role in the education process. Development of creative talent in the children receive emphasis. Songs, dances and physical exercises that develop the mind and the body, figure in the curriculum. Educational tours to places of interest and historical importance are organised periodically to improve their knowledge and inculcate in them the sense of national pride.

The primary school at Entally educates children between the ages of 4 to 12 years. During 1985, the school had 252 students on its rolls. Between 1977 and 1985, approximately 1200 students have passed out of the school.

The kindergarten school at Salt Lake has been functioning since 1982. A follow-up on the first batch of 39 students, who passed out of the school indicated that all have joined other schools after performing successfully in admission tests. In addition, the Salt Lake complex operates a creche for 80 children at Naobhanga, an adjacent area and two pre-primary education centres for 66 children between the ages of 5 and 9 years, in two extension areas.

The school at Ultadanga with approximately 300 students adopted the 'child teacher' system to enable the regular teacher to devote more time and attention to the weaker students of the class. The impact of such individual attention is evident from the results in the last half-yearly examination when 96 percent of the students were successful.

Pavement schools and primary schools are but two facets of the process of education. As wide as their ranges are in terms of population coverage, there are sections of

Women have evinced keen interest in education

population especially illiterate adults and working children, whose need for improved functional knowledge, techniques and skill cannot be covered through these projects. The non-formal education centres fill the vital gap in the education process. Discouraged, disorganised and ill-informed, the deprived population at large need a rallying point to organise and energise themselves. The non-formal education centres while imparting the knowledge of the letters, organise the people, motivate them and give them access to improved functional knowledge and skill. Vocational training programmes are also arranged through NFE centres. Calcutta Programme through its three service centres operate 17 NFE centres with a strength of approximately 475 students.

Vocational Training programmes designed for wide population coverage and participation take into account the educational status of the trainees. The programmes are tailored to suit the needs of the literate and illiterate. Aptitude, I.Q. and personality tests by professionals in the fields of applied psychology assist in identifying appropriate training programmes for potential trainees and ensures the best possible combination of people and subjects.

While designing training programmes for the urban poor, a host of factors are considered. Trades and professions selected should be appropriate and viable in socio-economic terms, should require minimum involvement of social welfare agencies for consolidation, should have high potential for self-employment and/or employment, should be self-supporting and scope for expansion and diversification must exist.

Training programmes offer a wide range of subjects such as automobile repairing, carpentry, cycle repairing, domestic electric wiring, tailoring, weaving, batik and block printing, knitting, needle work, fabric painting and radio and television repairing. Vocational training schemes undertaken in 1985 by Entally, Salt Lake and Ultadanga centres have imparted training to 543 literate and semi-literate youth from pavement dwelling families, squatter colonies and other similar backgrounds.

Sample follow-up surveys carried out on the activities of 710 trainees from earlier years have shown encouraging results. More than 67 percent of the ex-trainees were either self-employed or had obtained employment elsewhere.

With a view to organising the trainees and to open up wider and stabler avenues of employment for the trainees, LWS in 1979 promoted the Self Employment Centre (SEC). The SEC, established with the primary objectives of absorbing the talents of the under employed and unemployed trainees, has achieved a fair amount of success. The support extended by LWS in the crucial years of initiation, enabled the organisation to establish itself. SEC now is an independent organisation, operating under its own management with resources generated through its multifarious activities. Apart from providing food catering services to other organisations, SEC manufactures and sells ready-made garments including block and batik printed items and minor handicrafts. At the last count in 1985, SEC had a membership of 69 girls. During the year under review SEC sold goods worth nearly Rs. 150,000/- through its two retail outlets.

Drive, dynamism and enthusiasm for organised economic activity expressed by some trainees, all girls, of Salt Lake Complex resulted in the formation of Salt Lake Multipurpose Handicraft Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd. The Society which has received government registration has approximately 50 members and produces a variety of items such as ready made garments, jams, jelly, pickles, spices and condiments. Inter-personal contacts and organised exhibition-cum-sale of goods are but two aspects of the multipronged sales promotion campaign undertaken by the Society. The Society is also negotiating with organisations in the voluntary and commercial sectors for sale of its products. Apart from manufacturing and marketing its own products the co-operative also accepts contractual and piece rate jobs from other organisations.

Vocational training class

Besides organising training programmes, LWS also extends support to a voluntary organisation 'Karma Kutir', which is engaged in similar activities. Karma Kutir provides vocational training to 35 girls annually in different subjects such as tailoring, needlework and crochet.

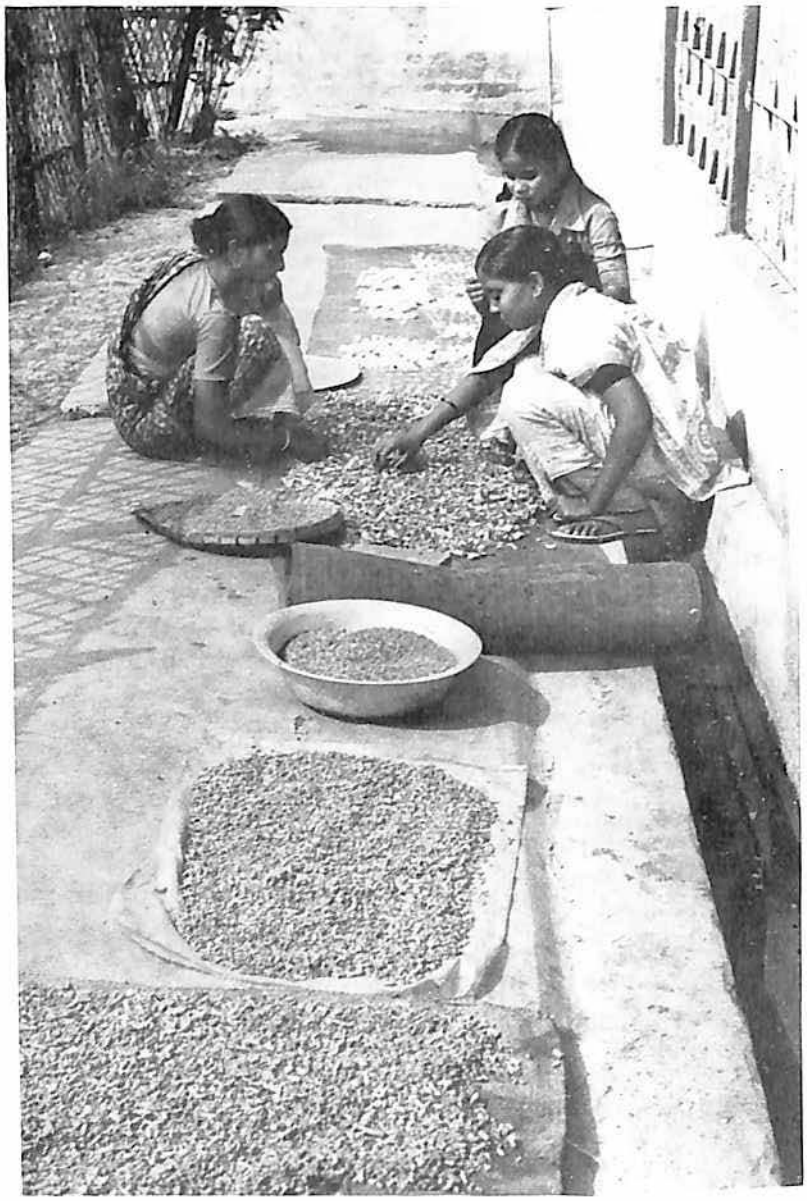
Training programmes conducted on the principles of 'TST' (Training, Stipend and Tools) particularly in Ultadanga, ensures adequate quantities of appropriate tools to the trainees on completion of training. Availability of working capital which had been a constraint in the past, has

Co-operative Society members stitching rain coats

been overcome considerably due to increased involvement of banks and local voluntary organisations in recent years. Highly structured and effective people's organisations of these communities have played a key role in furthering the involvement of banks and funding agencies for the development of the area. Sectoral and common interest groups have formed their own organisations which are again affiliated to central coordinating and apex bodies at the larger community level. Sectoral organisations and common interest groups carry out the major task of identifying potential loanees, scrutinising and verifying individual needs, as well as monitor the use and timely repayment of loans. The Apex bodies double check facts and place the needs of the community as a whole before the funding agencies to ensure maximum availability as well as optimum utilization of funds.

In the initial stages LWS maintained a high profile in these transactions. Motivating the people to organise and increasing their knowledge regarding resources available from the banks was a major task. Identifying people's needs and conveying these needs to appropriate quarters were yet other aspects of the task. Opportunities were created for increased interaction between the bankers and the community. With the relationship between the banks and the community well established and the community organisations monitoring all aspects of loan disbursal and recovery, the liaising and catalytic role of LWS is gradually diminishing.

In 1985, banks have disbursed Rs. 6,23,000/- as loans among 300 people. These easy recovery terms loans, carrying interest rates between 4 percent to 12 percent per annum, have been a great blessing to these capital starved communities. The loans have generated a spurt of economic activities in the communities. Incomes have doubled and trebled in many cases.



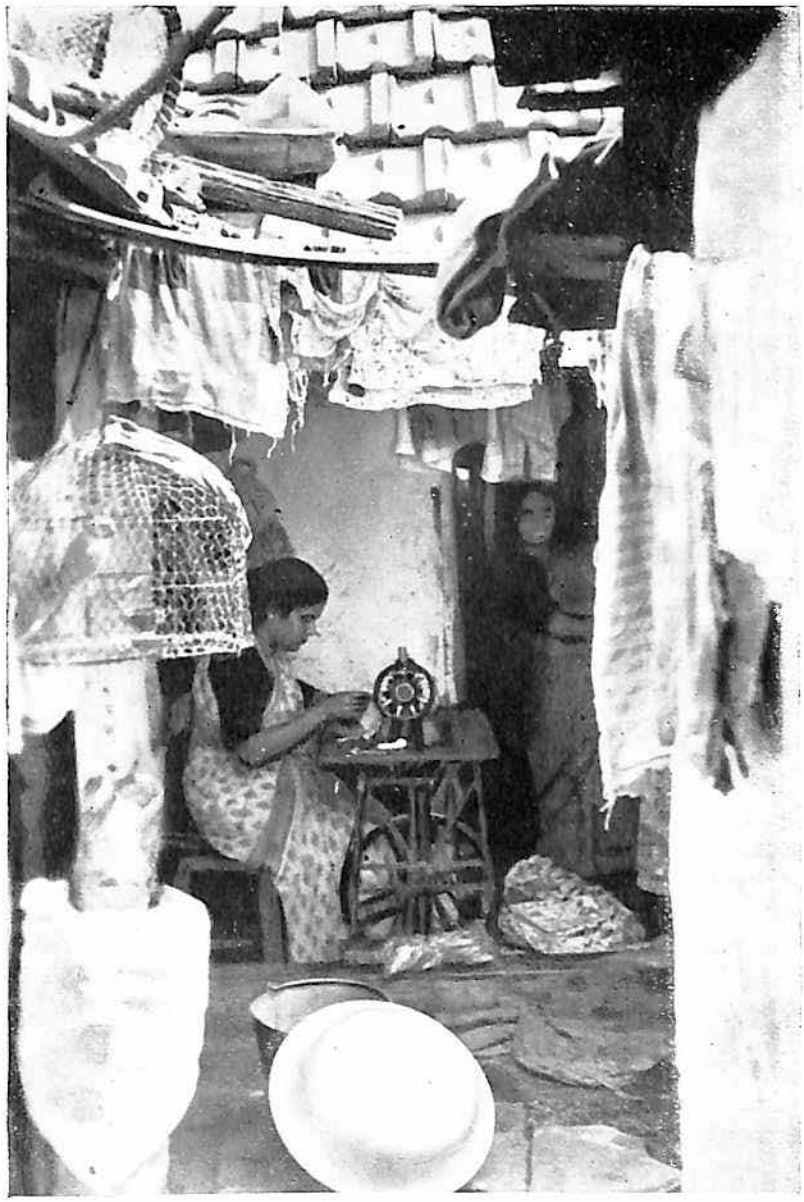
The drying of whole spices prior to grinding—a co-operative venture

Enthusiastic cooperation and coordination at community level and LWS' own motivational efforts have substantially increased the loan recovery rates. Interestingly 44 percent of the loans disbursed in 1985 went to 87 people who were availing the facility for a second or even a third time.

The principles of integrated development necessitates a holistic view as opposed to a compartmentalised approach to the problems

of the deprived. Education and training for income generating cover but two areas of the people's existence. There are many other areas of concern—health being the most prominent of them all. The target population served by the Calcutta Projects comprises of the most under-privileged segments of the urban population. They live in most unhygienic and insanitary environments amidst squalor and dirt. Drainage, sanitary latrines and adequate quantities of safe drinking water are almost non-existent. As a result, disease and ill health cast permanent shadows in their lives.

The Community Health Clinics at Salt Lake, Ultadanga and Entally, address to the health needs of the people. In the initial years health teams stressed on curative services. Gradually over the years, the emphasis shifted to preventive and promotive aspects of health care. At present community health services cover a population of 26,500. Ante-natal and post-natal health care, underfives clinics, immunization against preventable diseases are some of the major activities. Health education to increase people's awareness regarding health matters is emphasised. Through means of home visits and group meetings people are taught the need for adopting family planning measures, spacing of births, breast-feeding and personal hygiene. Prevention of malnutrition among underfives and school going children receive special attention. Training programmes and demonstration camps on nutrition and improved techniques of cooking that preserve the nutritional value of food, have been organised for mothers. During 1985, several such camps were organised in different locations within the target area with the assistance of Food and Nutrition Board officials of the Government of India. Efforts have also been made to provide safe drinking water to ensure better health.



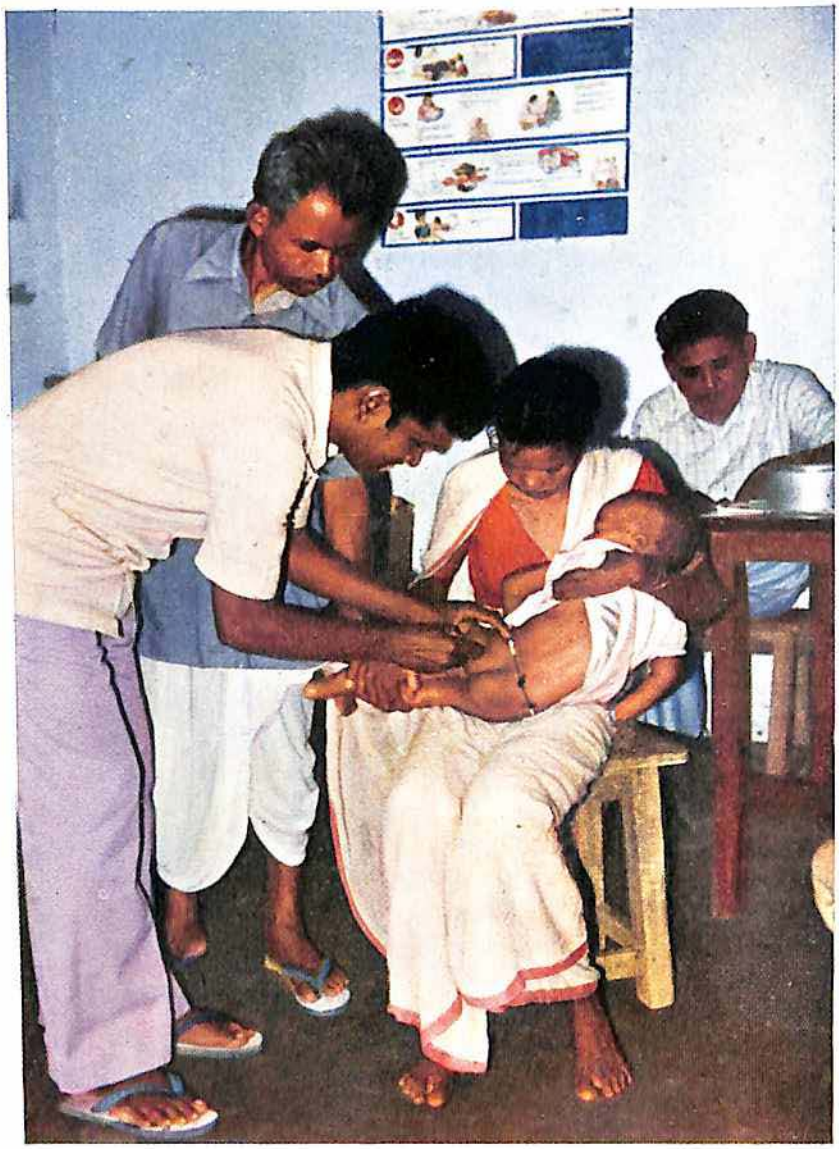
Trained by LWS, financed by the bank—a self employed youth

The Housing Resettlement Programme at Salt Lake undertaken in collaboration with the State Government aims at providing permanent shelter to 1500 pavement and embankment dwelling families in two phases. With the completion of 31 houses in 1985, LWS has constructed 1288 houses. Apart from providing the land for construction of houses, the State Government has built roads, drainage systems, market sheds and other necessary infrastructure. LWS has sunk adequate number of tubewells to ensure supply of safe drinking water. The Salt Lake centre situated

amidst the housing resettlement continues to undertake community development activities among the resettled population.

Shelters put up by the squatter colony residents offer them some, albeit limited, protection from the vagaries of nature. But the situation of the pavement dwellers, especially the shelterless ones has been a cause of concern for the civic authorities of Calcutta. The idea of night shelter for such floating population was mooted some years ago but with limited success. However, the night shelter run by LWS within the primary school premises at Ultadanga has been functioning successfully and shelters 85 people. The inmates receive the facilities of simple community bedding, bathing places and toilets.

Residents of the squatter settlements and the pavement dwellers face innumerable problems. No one agency whether governmental or non-governmental can hope to solve these problems and provide them with basic amenities and opportunities that would help them lead a dignified and meaningful existence. Hope for the future lies with people's organisations. Strengthening existing people's structures and organising the people have received considerable attention. Coordinated action by governmental, non-governmental and people's organisations at all levels and a combination of the resources and technical expertise of governmental and non-governmental agencies coupled with the drive, dynamism and desire for progress as expressed by the people are vital for the success of development efforts. After a decade of service in Calcutta it is a matter of satisfaction for LWS that these essential elements of success and progress are evident. Strong and structured people's organizations have emerged. Bank and government agencies are evincing keen interest in the affairs of the people. Local voluntary organizations which are much more permanent in nature are displaying increased concern about people's situation and their involvement is even greater.



Immunization is an integral part of the child health care system

ULTADANGA

EDUCATION

	Roll strength	Successful students
Formal	281	256
	Number of centres	Neo-literates
Non-formal	10	152

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Type	Number trained	Under training
Woodwork	20	—
Bicycle & cycle-rickshaw repairing	8	—
Sewing of readymade garments	40	—
Armature winding	30	—
Watch & clock repairing	30	—
Electrical house wiring	15	—
Repair of electrical household appliances	15	—
Radio & transistor repair	30	—
Potteries	6	—
Kits alignment	10	—
Speaker alignment	10	—
Electricals	15	—
Plumbing	10	—
Pen & ball pen assembly	10	—
Motor cycle & scooter repair	—	8
Total	249	8

BANK LOAN

Loan amount (in Rupees)	Families covered
277,000	98

ENTALLY

EDUCATION

	Roll strength	Successful students
Formal	252	208
	Number of centres	Student strength
Non-formal	4	110

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Type	Number trained	Under training
Tailoring	84	—
Needlework & embroidery	39	—
Batik	17	—
Block printing	9	—
Knitting	38	—
Motor driving	5	14
Total	192	14

BANK LOAN

Loan Amount (in Rupees)	Families covered
123,000	84

INFRASTRUCTURE

Type	Unit
Houses	31
Tubewells	54
Youth club	1
Renovation of Primary schools	4
Renovation of Community centres	8

SALT LAKE

EDUCATION

	Roll strength	Successful students
Formal	132	116
	Number of centres	Neo-literates
Non-formal	3	35

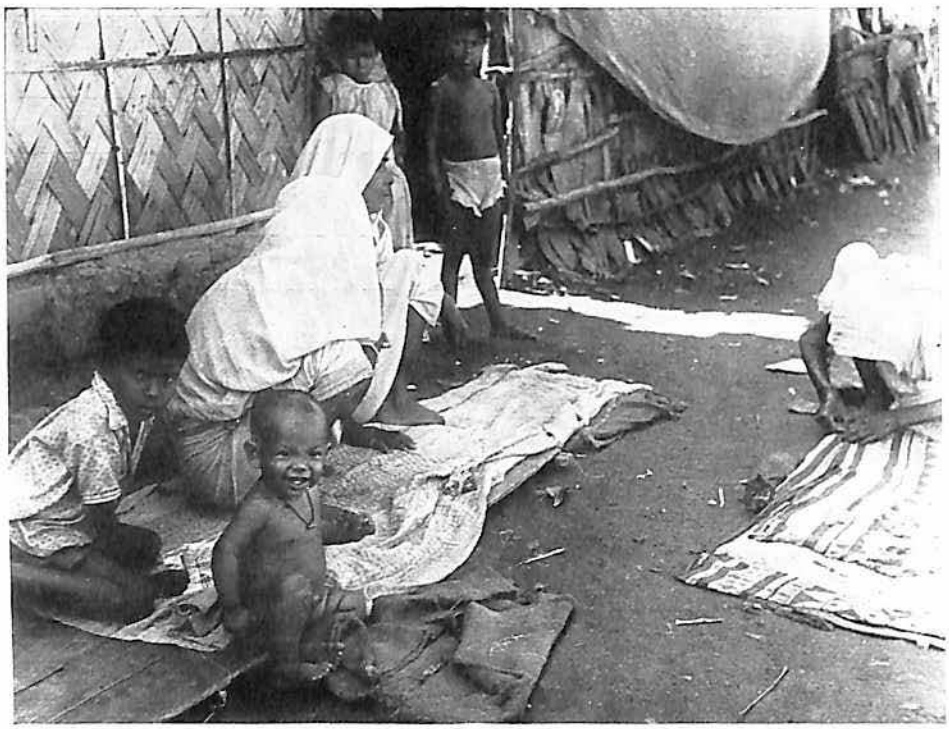
VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Type	Number trained	Under training
Tailoring	15	30
Fabric Painting	9	—
Machine embroidery	13	—
Electrical & allied activities	23	18
Food preparation & preservation	5	—
Automobile	2	—
Leather craft	7	—
Home nursing	26	—
Ampoule making	2	—
Radio & T.V.	—	10
Midwife training	—	2
Total	102	60

BANK LOAN

Loan Amount (in Rupees)	Families covered
150,000	93

ON-SITE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



With more than three million of the City's population living in slums, squatter settlements, on embankments and pavements, Calcutta faces complex civic and socio-economic problems, the magnitude of which is alarming. Estimates place the density of population within squatter colonies and other settlements, between 550 to 1100 persons per acre. Average floor space occupied by each family is less than 84 square feet and per capita floor space rarely exceeds 16 sq.ft. While one water tap serves 50 or more persons, 26 persons share one latrine.

Ill-ventilated, dark and unhygienic, the houses present a picture of misery, degeneration and degradation. Rotting dumps of garbage, overflowing drains and the all pervasive smell are the striking features of the slums and the squatter colony environments. During monsoons, lowlying areas get water logged and the overflowing drains not only flood the lanes and by-lanes, but also the houses in many cases.

The need for upgradation and development of such habitats were recognized early. At one time eradication of the settlements and provision of alternate accommodations were considered feasible. But experience over the years has proved that total replacement of squatter settlements would not be practical. Improved accommodation constructed for these low income groups have invariably, in the past, passed into the hands of people of higher economic standards. This factor as well as the resource constraints faced by Government has made the 'eradication and alternate accommodation' approach to improvement of squatter settlements impractical. But the government's concern about the condition of this segment of population and the determination to improve the living condition of the people is reflected in its requests to LWS to undertake some pilot projects in squatter colonies and similar habitats.

Two pilot projects, based on the concept of urban renewal through optimum utilization of existing resources for the creation of better environment have been initiated in two areas in early 1985. The project aims at improving the living conditions of the communities through functionally better houses, improved sanitation and community facilities, adequate supply of safe drinking water, community oriented health services, educational facilities and income generating activities. While minimum intervention and thereby minimum shifting of existing houses are envisaged, plans will allow for adequate sanitation, community facilities and access to all houses. Plans will be formulated in close collaboration with the people, taking into consideration each family's needs, sentiments, family incomes and resources. Availability of resources, people's as well as external will be major considerations. Hence initially emphasis will be on creating facilities sufficient for the situation, but which will have the potential for improvement with lowest possible investment.

Khudirampally, one of the two areas, where the pilot project has been initiated, has 328 families and approximately 3000 population, who are refugees from Bangladesh (erstwhile East Pakistan) initially settled on canal and railway embankments. On eviction from such sites, they forcibly occupied a plot of

vacant land in the neighbourhood. Bamboo mats, polythene sheets, mud, bricks and tiles have been used for construction of shelter. On an average such shelters have an area of 150 sq.ft. Lack of drainage, sanitation and sources of safe drinking water poses serious health hazards.

As a result of concerted action by the people and voluntary organizations including LWS, the government has set in motion the process of acquiring the land from the original private owners and transferring rights to the residents. The plot on which the settlement has grown has two water areas (tanks) and on reclamation of these areas through land filling, the 328 families will have among them approximately eight acres of land. Realigning the layout of the settlement and development of drainage, sanitation and internal communication (roads) facilities are pre-requisites for improving the environment. Available land area being insufficient for such purposes, reclamation of land through tank filling has been given high priority. During 1985 one tank measuring approximately one acre has been filled.

Other activities include community health clinics, sinking of tubewells for supply of safe drinking water and vocational training programmes. Community health and vocational training activities were initiated in Khudirampally in 1978, as an extension of development projects under Calcutta Programme.

During 1985, 10 youths have been provided vocational training in various disciplines. As in other areas of Calcutta, commercial banks have come forward with working capital support to the successful trainees and other self-employed individuals. During 1985, twenty-three persons have received working capital loans amounting to 71,000.

Satisfying a felt need—provision of safe drinking water

Dasnagar, the second settlement, where on-site improvement activities are being undertaken, is situated in the thickly populated industrial area in Howrah, west of Calcutta. The 71 families of Dasnagar, among whom the project has been initiated are scheduled castes and tribals, who had migrated to the metropolis decades ago in search of employment. However, the living conditions of the people in Dasnagar are very much similar to those in Khudirampally.

During 1985, emphasis has been on establishing rapport with the people, identifying areas of needs, problems and resources required. As a part of this process, an intensive door to door survey was carried out during the year. Organizing the people and building up community organizations received major attention.

Undergoing training in radio and television repairing

During 1985, three non-formal education (NFE) centres have been established. Vocational training programme for women is imparting tailoring training to 27 persons. Through schemes for self-employment and income generation a few families have been assisted. The recipients of such assistance are refunding/depositing in instalments the value of the inputs received from LWS into the community revolving funds.

Community health services with emphasis on preventive and promotive care has been introduced. Group meetings and film shows have been organised to increase people's understanding of health matters. Referral system has been established in co-operation with local government health centres for curative as well as preventive care. To ensure adequate supply of safe drinking water, five tubewells have been sunk.

The process of organising the people, mobilizing their resources and identifying other potential sources of finances for upgradation of houses and construction of sanitation facilities is continuing. Demarcation of individual plots for improvement of houses and creation of civic amenities will also depend on the finalization of legal formalities related to transfer of ownership rights of land to the occupants, which the relevant government departments have already set in motion.

DASNAGAR

INFRASTRUCTURE

Type	Unit	People covered
Drinking water tubewell	5	600

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Type	Number trained
Tailoring	17
Knitting	10

EDUCATION

	Number of centres	Student strength
Non-formal	3	58

INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

Type	Unit	Families covered
Rickshaw	4	4
Petty business	2	2

KHUDIRAMPALLY

INFRASTRUCTURE

Type	Unit	People covered
Tank filling	1	—
Tubewell re-sinking	4	400
Multipurpose centre	1	3500
Two seater community latrines	2	300

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Type	Number trained
Bicycle & rickshaw repairing	2
Watch & clock repairing	1
Radio & transistor repairing	2
Woodwork	2
Home Nursing	3

TRAINING WORKSHOP & SEMINARS (TWS)

Subject	People
Social workers (women)	1
Health workers	4
Motivation	1
People's Planning	1

BANK LOAN

Loan Amount (in Rupees)	People covered
71,000	23

MURSHIDABAD PROJECTS

Beginning with an Emergency nutrition programme in 1975 for 80,000 under nourished mothers and children affected by floods and and erosion, the Project at the further request of the State Government undertook rehabilitation of landless/homeless agricultural labourers, as well as refugees and flood and erosion affected families. Over the years, 3,254 such families were rehabilitated in 48 housing resettlements in the districts of Murshidabad & Nadia. Subsequently as a follow-up measure, certain other development activities were initiated in the resettlement colonies, including seven other clusters with 1,002 families, rehoused by Emergency and Rehabilitation Unit as a means to assist the new settlers to start life afresh in their new environment. This strategy was considered imperative for integration of these neglected groups in the prevailing social milieu.

By 1985 however, LWS India withdrew from 25 resettlement colonies and extended its area of operation to include 14 villages in Sagardighi Block. The process of withdrawal from advanced housing settlements and inclusion of undeveloped, needy villages under its area of operation represented implementation of plans drawn up in 1983, with representatives of the housing settlements. Identification of the colonies from which withdrawal would take place, as well as the criteria for withdrawal was determined by the Apex Body, comprising mainly of elected representatives from the housing settlements.

Since the economy of the new villages is largely agrarian in nature, a discernible shift in programme strategy became evident. During the initial stage, the emphasis on participatory and consultative approach resulted in mushrooming of fairly strong and effective people's organisations. Each village was divided into a number of sectors, with representatives from each sector forming village committees. Each representative is responsible for the cluster of families he represents and submits to the village committee his sector's development plan for inclusion in the overall village development plan. Village committees after determining the socio-economic viability of each project, presents the proposals to LWS in the form of village plans. LWS India in consultation with the representatives of the sectoral groups, village committee, panchayat and other relevant government and non-government bodies initiates and promotes the various development programmes. These programmes covered agriculture, irrigation, economic measures, community health services, non-formal education, drinking water supply, construction of culverts, roads, school buildings and sanitation programme.

During the year, 1492 small and marginal farmers were assisted with seeds and fertilizers to cultivate jute, paddy, wheat, potato, mustard, gram etc. in 823 acres. For the summer paddy, assistance was in the form of fertilizer only, while people used seeds from their own

Shallow tubewells—a major means of irrigation

resources. For jute and the winter crops, high yielding variety seeds, fertilizers and pesticides were made available. With regard to jute cultivation, experts from Government provided training to the farmers at a workshop organised by the Programme. Due to erratic rainfall, LWS also made available irrigation facilities to the jute growing farmers. Subsequently the increase in yield was nearly double. Ironically, however, the price of jute in 1985 dropped to less than Rs. 200/- per quintal, compared to Rs. 1,200/- per quintal in 1984. As a result most of the jute farmers suffered irreparable loss.

The District of Murshidabad is prone to recurring floods and erosive effects of the broad and meandering river Ganges. Sagardighi Block, which has a population of 140,000 spread over 198 villages, is however an exception and is more frequently affected by drought. While agriculture represents a major occupation, poor agricultural productivity due to lack of irrigation facilities and technology renders agriculture less than remunerative, particularly for the small and marginal farmers. At the same time, almost 38 percent of the population is landless, who are besieged with problems similar to landless groups all over the country.

Apart from river lift irrigation, tanks and shallow tubewells represent other forms of irrigation. In response to the people's desire to have irrigation facilities, 20 shallow tubewells were sunk to irrigate approximately 140 acres, which benefitted 243 farmers. Excavation of one tank was in progress at the year end.

Sagardighi Block, particularly the programme area, also suffers from serious communication bottlenecks. In response to requests from the Panchayat and the people concerned, construction of selected link roads were considered. Completion of the roads will make the Block Office, hospital as well as the marketing centres easily accessible to the people of 20 villages.

Assured sources of irrigation have increased crop yields

Construction of multipurpose community centres was taken up in three villages. One has already been completed, while two were in progress at the end of the year. Normally land for community centre is donated by villagers having a fair amount of land, but in one particular village 400 square feet of land for the community centre was donated by a marginal farmer

Jute—an important cash crop of Murshidabad

owning very little land. Evidently, his interest in education and concern for the community were the motivating factors. Village and group meetings, NFE as well as various cultural activities are organised in these multipurpose centres.

People's interest in education for their children is often manifested in their desire to have fairly permanent structures for village schools. The structures constructed by the people themselves are normally temporary in nature and need regular maintenance, which their economy does not permit. This not only has a demoralizing effect on the community, but also deprives the children from much needed education. There are occasions, when LWS India extends its helping hand to such communities, either by renovating or constructing schools to ensure education of the future generations. While two primary schools and one orphanage were completed, one school was in progress at the year end. In its effort to impart functional literacy to adults, who have been deprived of education in their formative years, 28 non-formal education centres were organised in the villages, as well as the resettlement colonies, with a student strength of 516.

Training Workshops and Seminars, being an integral part of the education process, the Programme in collaboration with the government, panchayat and other voluntary agencies imparted training in agriculture, pisciculture, bee-keeping, pump repairing, community health, people's planning and nonformal education teachers' training to 83 target people and NFE teachers, as well as 70 percent of the staff members.

These training programmes are designed to impart more than just elementary knowledge in spheres which have a direct bearing on the livelihood of the people and also to make the people conscious about their responsibilities to themselves, their families as well as their communities. Education and training programmes act as catalysts and provide an impetus for further development of the people concerned. Helping people to develop managerial capabilities as well as to function as responsible

Post harvest scene—paddy being threshed

Villagers discussing development plans with extension workers

members of the community are basic ingredients of the training programmes.

Quite often, villagers who have been selected by their village committees to receive assistance for various income generation schemes undergo both formal and informal training in their respective trades. The plight of the landless is of particular concern, which is repeatedly stressed not only by members of the landless themselves, but also by their respective representatives as well as their village committees. While economic measures programmes have been primarily designed for this section, the efforts and scope of activities have not been substantial. The magnitude of the problem is so vast that solutions have been extremely difficult to find.

In its endeavour to help the landless and the marginal farmers, LWS India assisted 185 people with cycle rickshaws, horse-carts, looms, pisciculture, livestock and petty business to provide them an opportunity to achieve economic self-reliance.

Despite their impoverished condition, the population under health care have realised the necessity to prepare and strengthen their own community to render health services to their people in future. Apart from two members of the target people who underwent training in community health; communities under health care agreed to form medical funds with the cost of medicines recovered from their people, and have accumulated Rs. 7,000/- till date. Three thousand people of four villages were covered under Intensive Care and 3500 people of three settleement colonies were covered under Peripheral Care.

Lack of safe drinking water is considered a major factor for the high incidence of water borne diseases. Hence, during the year 22 drinking water tubewells to provide safe drinking water to 660 people were sunk in 20 villages, in collaboration with the Panchayat and the Government.

Rickshaw vans are a common means of transport

The emphasis on people's participation in their own development and the need to develop their own resources including capital formation resulted in Rs. 50,000/- being accumulated in all the 14 villages as the Communities' Revolving Fund. Presently the communities are fairly eager to build the capital further and are spending a great deal of time and effort in discussing the mechanics of recycling, sustaining as well as further increasing their respective funds. Fearing that the fund may be frittered away in the absence of proper guidelines for use and further generation of capital, the villages have kept in abeyance their decision to recycle funds immediately.

The Murshidabad Programme has over the years undergone changes in operational area, composition of target groups, their occupation patterns and also in terms of programme emphasis and strategy. The desired integration between the settlements and the neighbouring villages has already occurred in some sectors of the programme area. Adoption of the new villages has further strengthened the process of integration and has created a situation in which the new villages having witnessed the growth of certain undesirable attitudes among the people in the housing settlements, are consciously trying to prevent the occurrence of similar situations which would hamper their progress. Their desire and enthusiasm as well as their belief in collective functioning has often been viewed as models by the neighbouring villages.

AGRICULTURE

Type	Crop Area (In acres)	Farmers	Level of participation (in percent)	
			LWS	People
Harvested Crops	358	527	22	78
Standing Crops	465	965	—	—

CROP PROTECTION

Type	Crop Area (in acres)	Farmers benefited
Pesticides	42	149

TRAINING, WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS (TWS)

Type	Staff	People
Physical Education	—	3
Agriculture	7	24
Pump repairing	—	5
Pisciculture	—	5
NFE Refresher course	7	25
Beekeeping	—	6
Identification, Planning Implementation of TWS needs	25	—
People's Planning	1	—
Social workers (women)	—	3
Community health	8	12
Neoliterates		308

INFRASTRUCTURE

Type	Unit	
	Completed	In progress
Tubewell (Drinking)	22	—
Shallow Tubewell (Irrigation)	20	5
Tank	—	1
Dugwell Latrines	12	13
School	2	1
Multipurpose Centre	1	2
Orphanage	1	—
Road	—	1

INCOME GENERATING SCHEME

	Unit	People covered
Cycle rickshaw	15	15
Petty business	79	79
Horse cart	3	3
Loom	7	7
Pisciculture	3	3
Diesel Pump	1	1
Livestock	192	77

KULTALI PROJECTS

Innumerable riverine islets; turbulent rivers and streams; creeks and swamps; dense forests of mangroves and other equally exotic trees; the abode of the majestic royal Bengal tiger; confluence of the rivers and the ocean-Sunderban evokes pleasure, joy as well as awe in the hearts of many. But to the residents of the area, Sunderban offers very little pleasure, happiness or comfort. The harsh realities of existence are saline unproductive agriculture land, frequent cyclonic storms and gigantic tidal bores which destroy everything in their wake. People wage an unceasing battle to protect life and property from the ravages of nature. While marginal and small farmers struggle with the saline soil to eke out a meagre livelihood, others wrest sustenance from the unpredictable rivers and murky coastal waters.

Sunderban, in the southern most part of West Bengal, is one of the most undeveloped and backward areas of the State. The region suffers from serious communication bottlenecks, lack of basic amenities, health and educational facilities. Primitive agricultural practices, total dependence on rains for cultivation, saline nature of the soil and meagre opportunities for alternate employment have kept incomes low and level of indebtedness high among the population. The light of Calcutta beckons the victims of this unequal battle for survival, with promises of plenty. They move into the city, but soon realise that the tenacious grip of poverty cannot be shaken off.

This steady rural urban migration has been a matter of grave concern for the government. In order to curb the migratory tendencies, Government has, in recent years, stepped up development activities in Sunderban area. Sharing government's concern and accepting its invitation to participate in the development of Sunderban, LWS has in early 1985, initiated development activities in selected villages of Kultali Block, one of the most backward areas of Sunderban.

Like the rest of Sunderban region, Kultali Block suffers from serious communication bottlenecks. The entire block has only 18 Kms. of all weather roads. More than 90 percent of the population are small and marginal farmers and depend on agriculture for livelihood, but cultivation is carried out entirely under rainfed conditions with marginal yields. Similarly, health and education facilities are extremely poor. In the face of widespread indebtedness, illiteracy and ill health, people lead a precarious existence.

Kultali project aims at arresting the migratory tendencies by creating conditions that would improve the quality of life. Project activities include transfer of knowledge in respect of improved agricultural practices appropriate for the peculiar soil conditions, development of irrigation infrastructure for storage of fresh water, construction of roads and embankments for protection of fields from tidal bores, subsidiary sources of income, education, health, promotion and development of people's organisations, particular focus on women and youth groups and capital formation in the form of village revolving funds.

During the year 1985, the LWS team adopted a low-key approach. Physical plans and activity targets were kept flexible. Concerted efforts were made to establish rapport with the target population. Innumerable meetings and discussions were held with the people to study the area, the people, their needs, problems, constraints and the local resources available. People's attitude towards their situation and their desire to organise for bettering the situation are encouraging.

A preliminary survey was conducted in 38 villages, with a population coverage of nearly 32,000. The survey revealed that approximately 78 percent of the population in the project area were small and marginal farmers, landless agricultural labourers and homeless families. During 1985, activities were concentrated in 12 villages among this segment of the population.

The soil of the Sunderban enriched with silt deposited by the river systems is often inundated by saline water during high tides and storm surges, thus robbing the land of its fertility. Throughout the agriculture season, farmers are plagued by uncertainty and insecurity. Frequent crop failures further impoverish the poor peasants.

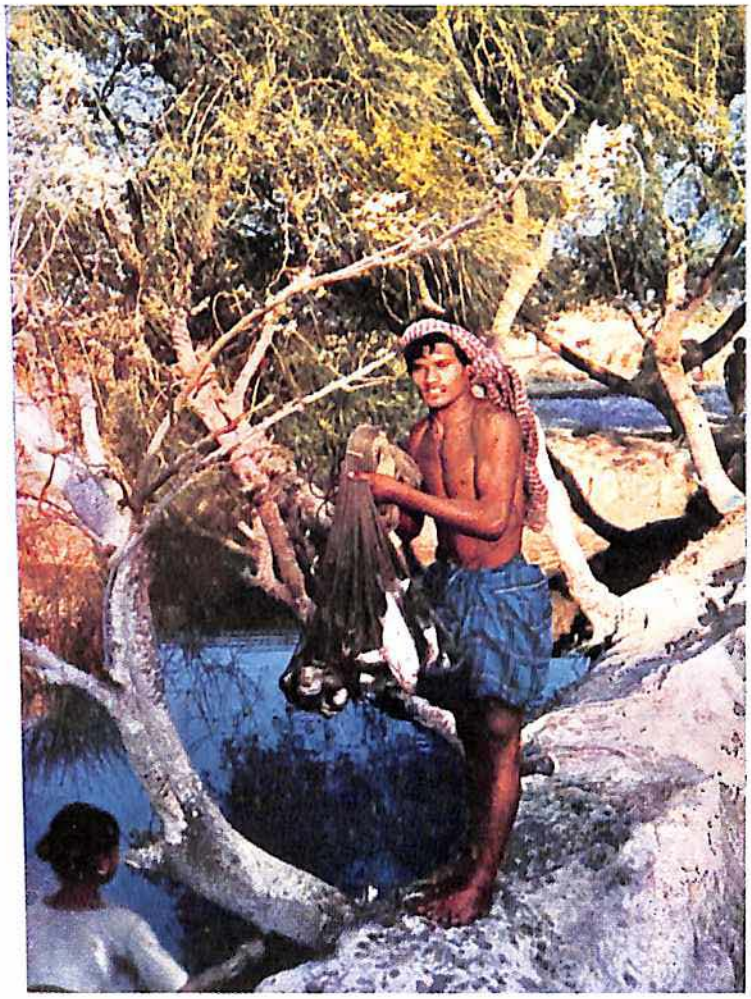
Use of homestead ponds as freshwater reservoirs for irrigation purposes were constantly stressed and promoted. This, apart from reducing some of the uncertainties associated with the main crop, will also prove useful for cultivation of winter crops.

One hundred forty three farmers were assisted with fertiliser and expertise during the summer/ monsoon season for growing paddy on 80 acres of land.

Multipurpose community centre—focal point of development activities

An uncommon sight in Kultali—a nursery bed for winter paddy

Besides agriculture, the other major occupation among the population is fishery. Inshore and offshore fishing are two major means of livelihood. In addition, many families in the region own small homestead ponds and use these for fish cultivation, but in very unscientific and therefore, unproductive ways. To encourage such small scale pisciculture which has high potential as a subsidiary source of income, one hundred and ten families in 4 villages were assisted with 103 kgs. of fish seeds and 1245 kgs. of fish feed to start pisciculture using improved methods.



Pisciculture in homestead ponds—a paying proposition

Inadequate supply of safe drinking water has been a major cause of the high incidence of water-borne disease. The area also suffers from severe lack of communication facilities. The mud paths that link the villages to the outside world become treacherous and unpassable during monsoons. Poor health, education and recreational facilities reflect the general state of underdevelopment of the area. Ramshackle and dilapidated thatch and mud houses serve as primary schools. Considering these factors, the following infrastructural measures were undertaken during the year.

Tubewells	: 9
Link roads	: 3.5 Kms.
Community centres	: 3
Primary school	: 1

Marginal farmers and landless agriculture labourers constitute a large percentage of the population. At the best of times, employment opportunities are limited, often unpredictable and incomes meagre. Measures undertaken to develop subsidiary sources of occupation and thereby raise the family incomes of these sections of the population included distribution of 3720 kgs. of paddy for rice processing and 7 rickshaw vans which have been instrumental in raising the income level of 25 families. Eight people were provided with bee-boxes to take up bee-keeping. Bee-keeping training has been imparted to 24 people from 12 villages.

In collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Indian Council of Agricultural Research, both government agencies, a freshwater pisciculture training programme was held in which 11 persons from 10 villages participated. Through lectures, practical demonstrations and film shows, the trainees were imparted technical knowhow concerning fish culture. Acquisition of this skill will facilitate the transfer of technology to the beneficiaries to make better use of the natural possibilities for fishing and fish breeding to cater to the markets in Calcutta.

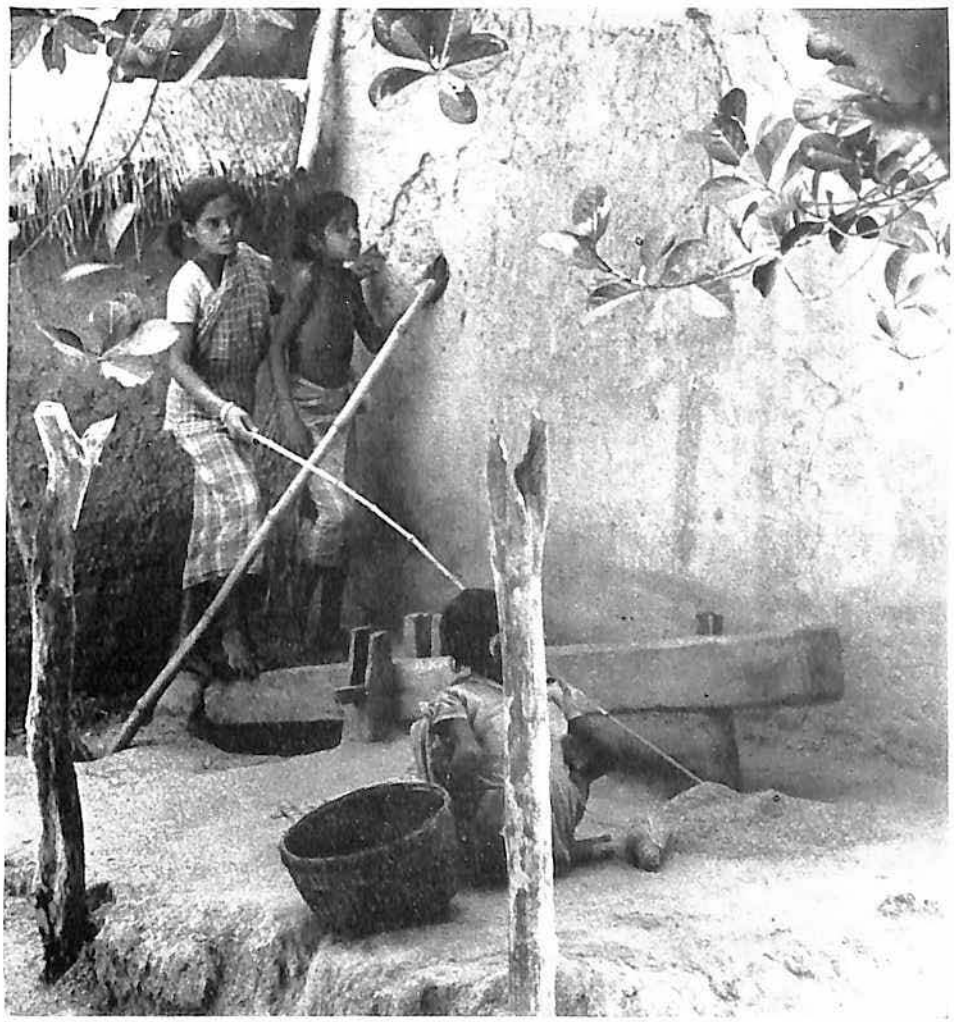
Eight non-formal education centres for adults helped 127 persons to free themselves from the shackles of ignorance and illiteracy.

An orientation course, for the benefit of the NFE teachers, was attended by seven teachers and eight trainee teachers. The course provided the participants an opportunity to understand the methodologies of teaching and gain fresh insights into NFE activities.

With a view to ensure the people's involvement, which is a necessary pre-requisite for the success of any development plan, 12 village committees were organised covering 15 villages. All programmes were planned and implemented through the village committees.

As a major step towards the communities becoming largely self-financed in course of years, the members have resolved to create revolving funds through voluntary subscriptions, donations and through refunding the value of inputs received. During the year, the fund thus generated amounted to Rs. 2,435/-.

The project directed efforts towards mobilising the youth and women to bring them into the mainstream of socio-economic activities. The youth in general have played prominent role in the formation of village committees, designing plans and co-ordinating activities. Independent youth organisations are gradually taking shape in the villages. Involvement of youth groups in socio-cultural development efforts have given the activities new dimensions as well as strengthened the functioning of community organisations. Due recognition has been given to the role of women in improving the quality of family and community life. Activities that will support and strengthen the role of women as mothers as well as earning members of the family, contributing to the family income have been initiated.



Paddy husking—a source of income for women

AGRICULTURE

Type	Crop Area (in acres)	Farmers Covered	Level of participation (in percent)	
			Farmers	LWS
Harvested Crop	80	143	70	30

INFRASTRUCTURE

Type	Unit	
	Completed	In progress
Drinking Water Tubewells	9	—
Community Centre	1	2
Road Construction	—	1
Primary School	—	1

TRAINING WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR (TWS)

Type	Staff	People
Orientation course of NFE teachers	3	15
Fresh water pisciculture	1	11
Apiculture	2	24

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

No. of centres	8
Student strength	127

INCOME GENERATING SCHEMES

Type	Unit	Families benefited
Pisciculture	126 tanks	110
Paddy processing	3720 kgs.	11
Rickshaw van	7	7
Beekeeping	14 boxes	8
Bidi making	5	5
Paper bag making	2	2

DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION

In a village of Bandwan—Project WHAT, a 4000 strong crowd had gathered to witness an unusual event. A sense of thrill, expectation and curiosity filled the air. The chilling winter wind and the darkening skies did not dampen their enthusiasm. This was a new experience for them. They were assembled to witness a drama competition. It was unusual because, these drama groups consisted of their own village youths, who had written, directed and were now staging the plays. Group after group presented their production. Wide-eyed villagers watched in awe and wondering silence. As dawn broke over the undulating skyline the crowd gradually dispersed. But it was a changed crowd. As they took their winding ways home some were thoughtful while many animatedly discussed the plots of the dramas they had seen.

Such scenes were enacted in many villages all over LWS' programme areas. But the dramas presented before the people had a common theme. They highlighted social problems, the state of the exploited, their superstitions and ignorance. These dramas emphasised the need for education and literacy and called for group action and fresh thinking on socio-economic problems.

Transfer of knowledge of improved techniques for accelerating income generation and dissemination of information for eradicating superstitions and ignorance—the major barriers to progress, require the optimum utilisation of all available media resources. LWS has constantly endeavoured to use the traditional and modern media of communication for furtherance of development. Integrated use of the traditional media like drama, puppetry and role play, the print media and a sophisticated medium like the Video has added vitality and new vigour to the development communication process.

New messages communicated through the traditional medium increases acceptance and understanding. Experience showed that the message generates the desired impact when these are presented in people's own language and with their active participation. Efforts were made to present new messages through traditional media, harnessing people's creative talents.

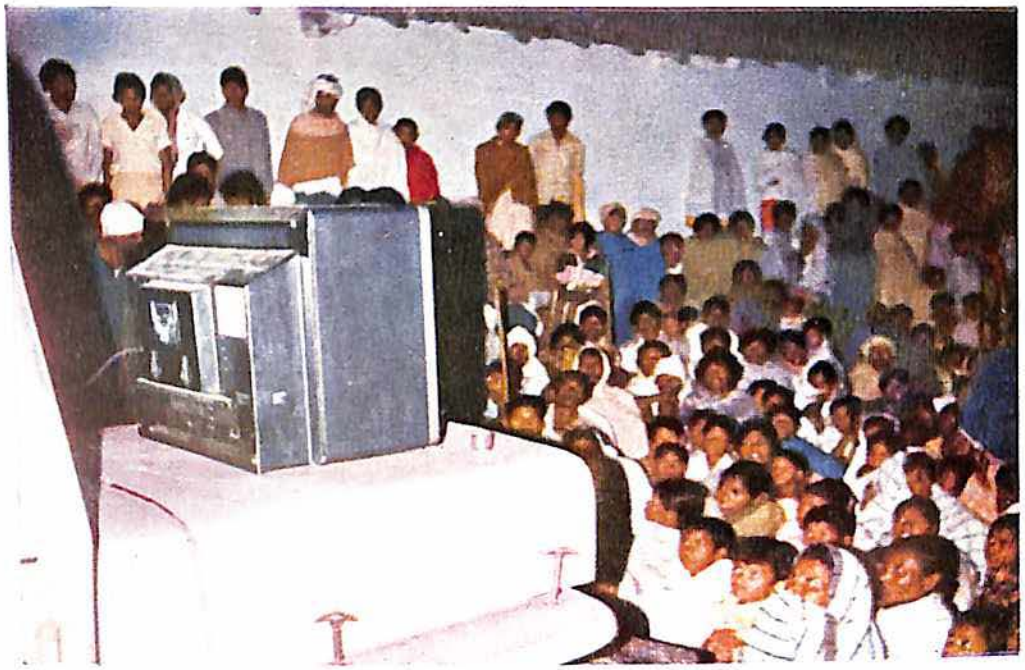
Recognising dramas as the ideal medium for these purposes, LWS organised village youth groups in different programme areas, who wrote the scripts, directed and staged

the plays. During the later part of the year an inter-programme drama competition was also organised. A total of 37 groups participated at the preliminary stage of the competition. The best drama troupe from each programme area was provided an opportunity to stage their play in Calcutta, before a sophisticated urban gathering. The five drama troupes who staged their plays in Calcutta, won critical acclaim for the directness of approach, simplicity of theme and appropriateness of the messages.

LWS' supportive media team, which concentrates on development of traditional media, in 1985 organised 18 other village youth groups who have enthusiastically associated themselves with LWS' development efforts. Many members of these teams have been trained and exposed to theatre, puppetry, role play and other media through workshops. Presentation by these groups in the people's own language and pertinent to people's culture and ethos have increased relevance and thereby acceptance of the messages. More and more village youth groups are springing up all over the programme areas to participate effectively in the development process.

Superstition and alcoholism are slowly decreasing among tribals, especially among the youth in Jangal Mahal, Purulia and Orissa. People are now conscious for their children's welfare, general health and sanitation.

The team on its own, presented twenty-three dramas, puppetry and role play performances in the programme areas. Subjects included were cholera, oral rehydration therapy, health, exploitation, migration, bonded labour etc.



Video—a powerful media for development communication

The Video Unit established in May 1983 has achieved a fair amount of success in improving expertise and technology in the use of video as a medium for making development communication more effective and result oriented. Rapid progress has been made in updating filming and documentation methodologies, which have resulted in qualitatively better production that cater to the changing needs of the people and LWS as an organisation.

Experience gained over the years helped the video team to switch over to filming training programmes while in progress to maximise the educational impact of the film and cut down production time.

Appropriate use of video, a powerful tool of communication, can create a great impact at the grassroots level in spreading the messages of development. With this in mind, Project WHAT and Murshidabad Programme areas have been provided with video units and cassettes of educational films.

Mobile field units visit different villages, exhibiting films and spreading messages of development. At regular intervals DCU replenishes the stock of film cassettes.

Bi-annual reviews and feedback by LWS executives and Calcutta Doordarsan (Regional T.V. Centre)

personnel provide opportunities for critical reviews, analysis and guidance for qualitative improvement in production. The reviewers have appreciated the quality of production, methodology of operation and presentation of theme. The films on pisciculture and beekeeping received wide appreciation for depth of presentation, as well as their educational and informative qualities.

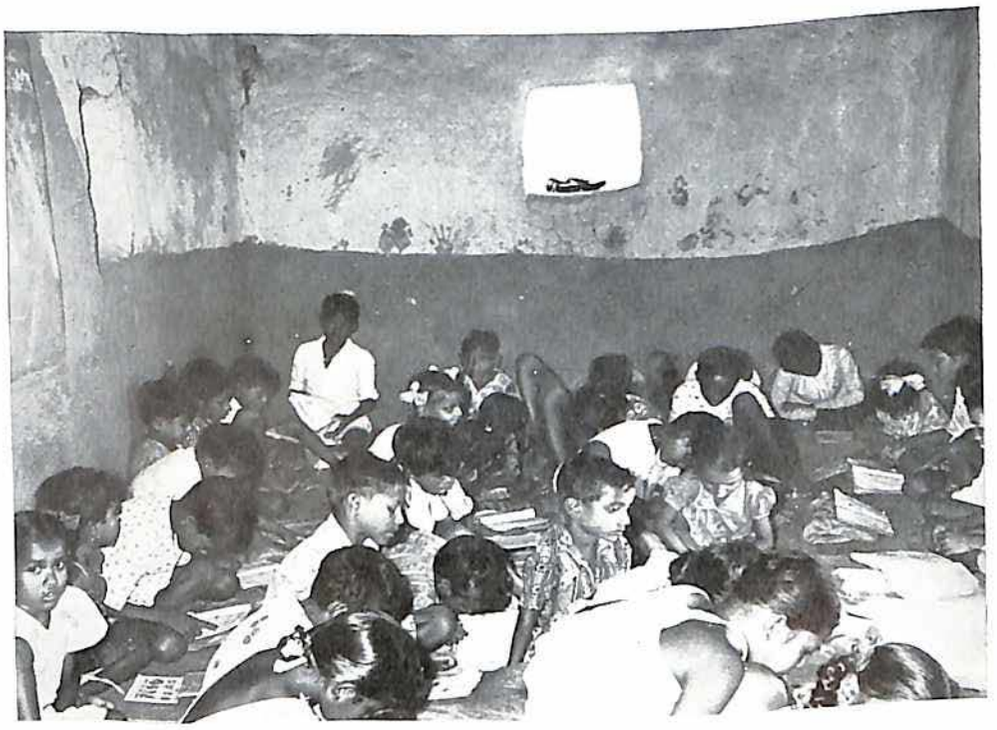
In 1985, six films have been produced, while five are awaiting editing. Films are normally produced in three languages—Bengali. Oriya and English.

The print media include charts, posters, flash cards and other printed educational aids and two journals published by LWS. 'Partnership in Progress', a bi-annual publication in English publishes works by eminent people in the field of development. Highly informative articles by such persons have established the journal's credentials as a publication of value and interest to those involved in developmental activities. The journal which enjoys national as well as international readership provides LWS personnel and others an opportunity for sharing their experiences, articulating their views and gaining fresh insights and greater understanding of the development process. "ALO", the light of knowledge, published quarterly has sections in Bengali and Oriya. It is a publication for neo-literates and the major part of the contributions come from them. It gives them a forum for developing their creative talents, sharing views and experiences as well as to gain further knowledge and information.

Non-formal education class

The duration of non-formal education (NFE) sessions were increased from 6 months to one year to ensure more qualitative inputs and thereby enhance their effectiveness. NFE centres, while spreading the message of literacy, are also focal points of general socio-economic development activities and promote the concept of self-reliance through self-help. NFE centres have gradually transformed into vital instruments of education and development.

The NFE curriculum is totally people oriented and touches all aspects of their daily lives. Subjects for NFE include literacy, man and the environment, population education, health and hygiene, food and nutrition and delivery and distribution system. Village committee and functional group members are encouraged to participate in training courses for NFE teachers. Active participation by these groups will increase their awareness of, and involvement in the NFE activities. The positive impact of such close involvement is evident in Bandwan area of Project WHAT, where members of the village committees and functional groups have evinced keen interest in NFE activities and are monitoring these for greater co-ordination.



A rural classroom scene

In the existing environment of poverty and deprivation, children too are required to work to support the family. The pittance they earn daily as cow-herders, farm-hands and doing odd jobs like collecting fuel wood and forest products help in a big manner to keep the kitchen fires burning. Opportunities for attending regular school are denied to them. The NFE centres have kindled in them the desire to learn and know. In almost all programme areas along with the illiterate adults these children too, take advantage of the NFE centres for furthering knowledge, literacy and numeracy.

Teachers have been provided opportunities for improvement of knowledge and skill through vocational training and teachers' refresher courses. During 1985 four such courses have been organised exclusively for the NFE teachers.

Scientific fish breeding has high potential for boosting incomes

Teachers' workshops have been utilised to identify areas of weakness and subjects which require greater attention and indepth coverage.

During subsequent refresher courses these subjects have been covered, generating greater enthusiasm and more understanding among them. Teachers are exposed to group dynamics and leadership qualities—love, understanding and concern for fellow-men are sought to be instilled in them. With more and more teachers in the forefront of development efforts of their communities—they have begun to play a catalytic role.

Training, workshop and seminar (TWS) are dynamic communication media and have been used effectively to increase managerial capabilities among target population and LWS personnel. During 1985, TWS's covering a wide range of subjects were organised. Training, workshops and seminars continuously expose the staff and the target population to the methodologies of 'planning from below' and improved technologies and viable alternatives for development.

During 1985, the major TWS activities have been:

- a workshop for LWS staff on TWS stressed this media's importance as well as helped develop an improved methodology for identification of needs, planning, implementation, monitoring and follow up.

- the final workshop — 'Planning from Below', conducted by PREM Cell at Jangal Mahal provided further impetus for DCU to conduct workshops on the same subject as follow up measures in the programme areas. As a result, a growing awareness of the importance of grassroots planning became evident.

TWS's are valuable for furthering knowledge

- staff members attended the training on Management of Human Resources for Rural Development at National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad and Gauhati respectively. These trained personnel subsequently conducted more workshops on the subject in different field programmes.

- the role of women in the development process has been highlighted. A workshop on development of women was organised at Jangal Mahal. The workshop focussed on the major contribution of women towards better family and community health and improved quality of life.

- sixty one TWS's have been organised by LWS, 9 by other institutions and 13 for sharing of experience. Three hundred eighty staff and 1426 target people participated in the TWS'

Yet another area of remarkable success has been in the field of sports and cultural activities. Sports meets have been organised within all programme areas. Mass participation and enthusiasm for these activities have been witnessed. Village youth groups are being provided systematic training in traditional games. Services of a local club—Naba Bharat Sporting Club—have been utilised to train village youth from LWS' programme areas in athletic activities and traditional games. Promising athletes from among the village youths have been identified and provided preliminary training to enable them to participate in the forthcoming National Rural Sports Meet to be held in 1986. These youth will receive intensive coaching in 1986.

DCU maintains close liaison with government and non-governmental agencies, institutions, local and international voluntary organisations and receives support and technical inputs for conducting training programmes and for preparing audio-visual aids for education.

Collaboration with external organisations like UNICEF, Child-In-Need Institute (CINI), Synodical Board of Social Services-Church of North India, Ramakrishna Mission and Xavier Institute of Social Service, has helped acquire information on improved techniques. Interaction with these organisations which are divergent in nature, but specialised in their fields of activities, has increased the depth of understanding, broadened the range of perception as well as provided inputs for qualitative improvement of the development process.

TABLE—1

Item	Number organised	Number of Participants and Percentage				Total Participated
		Staff		People		
		No. of participants	Percentage	No. of participants	Percentage	
Training	63	199	13	1354	87	1553
Workshop	15	176	71	70	29	246
Seminar	5	12	86	2	14	14
Total	83	387	21	1426	79	1813

TABLE—1.1

Type of training	Number Arranged	Participants		
		Staff	People	Total
Watershed Management	1	4	—	4
Agriculture	30	70	957	1027
Maintenance of Orchards on degraded soil	1	6	17	23
Puppetry & Audio-visual aids	1	—	11	11
Physical Education	1	—	3	3
Entrepreneurship	1	7	5	12
Accounts & Stores	2	28	—	28
NFE teachers	4	32	116	148
Adult Educators and community development workers	1	—	2	2
Beekeeping	3	1	27	28
Cycle repairing	2	—	2	2
Animal Husbandry	2	11	53	64
Bamboo crafts	1	—	7	7
Tailoring	2	—	12	12
Tassar (sericulture)	1	—	4	4
Mushroom cultivation	1	1	—	1
Lac cultivation	2	7	44	51
Pisciculture	2	9	41	50
Home baking (Bread)	1	—	6	6
Food & Nutrition	1	5	21	26
Community Health Organisation	3	18	26	44
Total	63	199	1354	1553

TABLE—1.2

Type of Workshop	Number arranged	Number of Participants		
		Staff	People	Total
Motivation	1	27	6	33
Identification, Planning, Implementation & Follow-up	2	57	—	57
People's planning	1	31	27	58
Theatre	1	—	4	4
TWS Needs	1	36	—	36
Social Workers (Women)	1	4	12	16
Orientation programme—Adult Education	1	1	—	1
Community Theatre	1	2	4	6
Management of Behavioural Dimension for Rural Development	1	1	—	1
Leadership Development and Self Development plan	1	—	1	1
Youth, Peace, Participation and Development	1	4	—	4
Theatre Puppetry	1	5	16	21
State Level Discussion on New Education Policy	1	6	—	6
New Education policy, Literacy and Adult Education	1	2	—	2
Total	15	176	70	246

TABLE—1.3

Type of Seminar	Number arranged	Number of Participants		
		LWS Staff	People	Total
Aspects of Animation Films	1	3	—	3
Appropriate Technology for Rural Development	1	3	—	3
T—Group Session	1	1	—	1
Adult Education & Continuing Education	1	3	2	5
Status of Women in Society & their development in W. Bengal	1	2	—	2
Total	5	12	2	14

TABLE—2

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

Programme Area	Number of centres	Student strength	Neo-literates
Calcutta	12	246	187
Burdwan	25	388	224
Murshidabad	28	514	308
Purulia	11	231	77
Mayurbhanj	30	605	*
Total	106	1,984	796

* Examinations were not held.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Total integration of health with other facets of development has been an area of major emphasis in LWS. The integration process initiated in 1983, has achieved remarkable success with health workers assuming the role of multipurpose workers participating in the total development efforts. Health is no longer treated in isolation, but as an integral part of the total system. The need for basic health care stems from the existing socio-economic complexities and the barriers that separated the concern for health care from the concern for food and shelter is not evident now. A clearer understanding of health vis-a-vis socio-economic development has brought about greater co-ordination and thrust in eradicating the root causes. Attitudinal changes evident among the target population is heartening. Health and health matters are gaining importance in people's thinking. The tendency to view diseases as acts by supernatural powers is decreasing, especially among rural population. Preventive and promotive health measures are assuming greater importance in people's lives.

Community participation, the vital factor that makes a community health programme successful, has been abundant since inception of community health programmes. In recent years, participation has acquired greater meaning and broader dimensions. The role of women and the complex relationship between women and development has a new significance now. Women have been traditionally viewed merely as mothers and nurturers of children and all development efforts were specifically designed to support this one significant role. Women as individuals and workers and their role in economic and social development activities had received little attention. With the change in outlook, deliberate efforts are being made to bring women into the mainstream of developmental activities. While organising women for economic development, programmes designed for women also recognise their crucial role in improving the quality of the child's as well as the family's life.

Mahila Samities—Women's organisations and mothers' committees have been organised in all programme areas. These organisations of women are the mainstay of community health activities at the grassroots level. They play a key role in spreading the messages of community health. The messages have ceased to be mere platitudes but tenets of life to be practised in daily life. The integrated approach to development and women's contribution have expanded the scope of these organisations, necessiating their involvement in the income generating schemes to accelerate the development process.

With the shift in direction and emphasis as regards the role of women in general development and health, parallel changes are also taking place within structures of LWS at the field level. Women development workers so far mainly confined to the narrow spectrum of health and related activities, are shouldering wider responsibilities. Lady health workers and social workers who have been provided adequate exposure to health activities are taking charge of sub-centres covering several villages for total development activities.

Family Planning techniques and welfare measures are frequently discussed with mothers

The scope of health education, the major means of transferring knowledge and increasing awareness on health matters has been broadened. Frequency of group meetings and home visits have been stepped up. New health education and learning dynamics are being evolved with more creative and engaging dialogue between the health workers and the people. Health education prepares the people to meet their own primary health needs and increases their awareness regarding the measures available for greater self-reliance in health matters. Low cost locally accessible, adaptable, acceptable and affordable measures are promoted for disease intervention and health promotion to reduce mortality and morbidity. These measures are management and concontrol of diarrhoeal diseases through timely intervention with oral rehydration solution (ORS) prepared from locally available resources such as sugar and salt, immunization against the six major preventable diseases, prevention of malnutrition through monitoring of children's growth, antenatal and postnatal care, spacing of birth and control and management of common ailments like malaria, filaria and night-blindness through use of simple drugs and other techniques.

During home visits and other occasions the health workers teach the mothers simple and improved methods of cooking to ensure minimum wastage of nutrients and thereby increase the nutritional value of food. In talks on hygiene and sanitation, importance of handwashing with soap, simple personal hygiene, protection of potable water, the mechanics of spread of communicable diseases especially gastro-intestinal diseases and the role of flies and mosquitoes in spreading diseases, the importance of colostrum, breast-feeding and supplementary diets are repeatedly elaborated and emphasized to ensure maximum acceptance among mothers.

Health education has been oriented towards transfer of knowledge of simple technology that will be practicable in daily life. One hundred and thirty-five mothers and women in different programme areas have been trained in the techniques of preparation of local oral rehydration solution and soapmaking. These mothers have since acted as carriers, further spreading the use of ORS. Imparting of simple techniques of soap making at home is expected to increase the use of soap for maintenance of personal hygiene and sanitation.

With more effective inter-disciplinary integration, qualitative improvement in health education measures, progressive involvement and increased awareness among target population, especially mothers and stress on GOBI—Growth-monitoring, Oral rehydration therapy, Breast-feeding and Immunization, a fourfold child survival strategy as advocated by WHO/UNICEF, morbidity and mortality due to communicable diseases are graduatly decreasing. The number of curative cases amongst people under intensive health care has declined since 1983. The number of communicable diseases, notable being gastro-intestinal cases, incidence of malnutrition, birth and infant mortality rates have registered a progressive fall. There is perceptible drop in the incidence of communicable diseases among underfives.

Staff members at a 'food and nutrition' training programme

A number of short training courses on community health have been organised in 1985. The training programmes, covering a wide range of subjects related to primary health care, had a new orientation, wider coverage and involvement in terms of increased participation. Keeping in mind the need for integration, the training programmes were not restricted to health workers only, but project workers of other disciplines, non-formal education teachers and members of the target population were also included. Health workers and volunteers numbering 50 underwent short duration orientation courses during the year. Apart from these, 35 resource personnel from other disciplines, 38 NFE teachers, 5 Balwadi (creche) teachers and 42 members of the target population were exposed to the principles of community health through these training programmes.

These training programmes conducted in programme areas and also at training centres in collaboration with West Bengal Voluntary Health Association, a local voluntary organisation that specialises in the field of Community Health training, have attempted to expose the health workers and others to the techniques of motivation, use of audiovisual aids in health education, methodologies and general principles of primary health care.

Auxiliary nurse midwives and other trained personnel have been recognized as ideal propagators of the concepts of community health with its emphasis on motivation and education of the people. Paramedical personnel and others trained as health educators are gradually assuming leadership of community health programmes. With the importance and need for curative services diminishing, the need for doctors as clinicians have also decreased.

Collaboration and participation with local, national and international voluntary organisations and government agencies in the areas of health promotion and disease prevention continue to strengthen LWS' own efforts. 'Chitrabani' a local voluntary organisation that specialises in communication media

is a major source for procurement of audio-visual aids essential for health education. Exposure to Community Health practice, mother and child health care system, and methodologies of managing community health programme increases the depth of understanding of the community health workers and broadens the horizons of perception. Assistance of CINI (Child-In-Need Institute) a local voluntary organisation engaged in community health activities and mother-child health care has been useful in this regard. Voluntary Health Association of India and the West Bengal State Branch of the organisation have extended wholehearted assistance and co-operation for training health workers. Central Drug Marketing Unit of West Bengal Voluntary Health Association provides vital support by making available essential drugs of high quality at moderate rates. Collaboration with UNICEF covers a wide range of activities. Developing sources of safe drinking water along with hygiene and sanitation has been areas of major participation. Supplies of audio-visual aids and minor medical equipments have also been received from UNICEF.

Government agencies have been involved in imparting training to LWS personnel and target population. Vaccines for immunization, nutritional supplements and family planning aids are made available to LWS free of cost. In some areas of Project WHAT, Government manpower and other resources are important factors for the successful implementation of community health programme.

Health workers on home visit

TABLE—I

COMMUNITY HEALTH TRAINING

AREA	Health Workers/ Community Health Volunteers	Staff	NFE/Balwadi/ K.G. School Teachers	Target Population	Total
CALCUTTA					
Ultadanga	9	16	9	8	42
Salt Lake	15	5	6	1	27
MURSHIDABAD	6	1	13	—	20
BURDWAN	6	2	6	14	28
MAYURBHANJ	5	4	6	7	22
PURULIA	5	5	3	12	25
ON-SITE					
Dasnagar	1	1	—	—	2
Khudirampally	3	1	—	—	4
Total	50	35	43	42	170

Pre-supposing that health services and activities should be totally integrated with other areas of development, training in the concepts, aims and objectives of Community Health Care and details of the tasks involved, were imparted through short courses not only to health workers and community health volunteers, but also to project workers of other disciplines, NFE teachers and members of the target population as shown in table I.

TABLE—II

HEALTH EDUCATION

ACTIVITIES	PROGRAMME AREAS										
	CALCUTTA			MURSHIDABAD	BURDWAN	PURULIA	MAYURBHANJ		ON-SITE		Total
	Entally	Ulta-danga	Salt Lake	Murshidabad	Jangal Mahal	Bandwan	Jamda	Bija-tala	Das-nagar	Khudi-rampalli	
Home Visits	2091	1945	5026	4129	2722	1119	453	401	570	2374	20,830
Group Meetings	434	115	1458	79	538	32	11	39	67	57	2,830
Total	2525	2060	6484	4208	3260	1151	464	440	637	2431	23,660

Home visits and group meetings represented major means of transferring knowledge as well as increasing awareness about proper health care. Techniques of preparation and use of 'ORS' imparted during home-visits and group meetings have reduced the incidence of gastro-intestinal diseases in general but especially among under-fives.

TABLE—III

CURATIVE SERVICES

AREA	Number of cases treated								
	ADULT				UNDER-FIVES				
	Men	Women	Sub total	Percent of total	Boys	Girls	Sub total	Percent of total	Total
CALCUTTA									
Entally & Extn. Areas	546	869	1415	64	423	366	789	36	2204
Ultadanga & Extn. Areas	958	1895	2853	73	580	496	1076	27	3929
Salt Lake & Extn. Areas	1820	2601	4421	67	1229	997	2226	33	6647
MURSHIDABAD	1380	1333	2713	84	313	196	509	16	3222
BURDWAN									
Jangal Mahal	1145	1395	2540	71	569	488	1057	29	3597
PURULIA									
Bandwan	697	462	1159	79	200	108	308	21	1467
MAYURBHANJ									
Jamda	35	44	79	69	26	9	35	31	114
Bijatala	257	114	371	80	48	45	93	20	464
ON-SITE									
Dasnagar	205	179	384	79	50	52	102	21	486
Khudirampally	359	732	1091	66	297	263	560	34	1651
	7402	9624	17026	72	3735	3020	6755	28	23781

The total number of cases treated indicates a downward trend despite inclusion of new programme areas under health services during the year. This is primarily due to the change in emphasis on preventive and promotive aspects of health care.

TABLE—IV

BIRTH RECORD AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

AREA	Total Births	Birth Rate	Death between 0—1 yrs	Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)
CALCUTTA				
Entally	80	16	8	100.0
Ultadanga	20	5	2	100.0
Salt Lake	90	13.8	12	133.3
MURSHIDABAD	58	16.4	6	103.4
BURDWAN				
Jangal Mahal	52	32.4	2	38.4
PURULIA				
Bandwan	35	10.5	—	—
MAYURBHANJ				
Jamda	17	7.5	2	117.6
Bijatala	30	19.5	10	333.3
ON-SITE				
Dasnagar	14	35	1	71.4
Khudirampally	45	18	2	44.4

TABLE—V

ANTE NATAL AND POST NATAL CARE

ACTIVITIES	PROGRAMME AREAS										Total
	CALCUTTA			MURSHIDABAD	BURDWAN	PURULIA	MAYURBHANJ		ON-SITE		
	Ent.	Ult.	S.L.		J. Mahal	Bandwan	Jamda	Bijatala	D.N.	K.P.	
Detection of Pregnancy	28	34	46	60	87	58	22	25	8	35	403
Tet. Toxoid	49	11	91	122	76	97	15	9	*	69	539
Nutritional supplements	287	155	272	271	57	252	40	33	75	175	1617

* Pregnant mothers are advised by our Health Workers to avail immunization facilities from the local Health Centre.

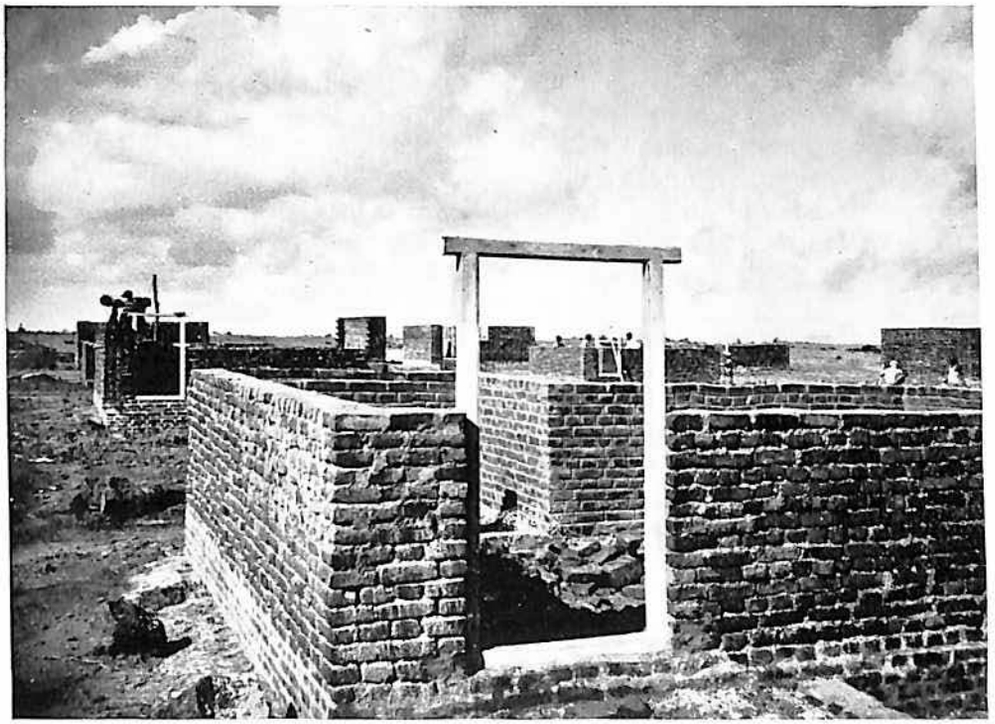
TABLE—VI

CARE OF UNDER-FIVES

AREAS	Total No. of children	Malnutrition Grade II & III	Percentage of High Risk	Immunisation (No. of doses)	Nutritional Supplements
CALCUTTA					
Entally	368	56	15.2	750	934
Ultadanga	220	36	16.3	1519	2034
Salt Lake	569	64	11.2	1174	1132
MURSHIDABAD	413	33	7.9	869	621
BURDWAN					
Jangal Mahal	282	69	24.4	29	406
PURULIA					
Bandwan	367	65	17.7	324	508
MAYURBHANJ					
Jamda	—	—	—	410	90
Bijatala	106	27	25.4	48	70
ON-SITE					
Dasnagar	24	4	16.6	—	74
Khudirampally	194	26	13.4	650	1270

Malnutrition amongst Under-Fives varied between 10 and 28 percent. As compared to 1984 this represents a progressive decline in malnutrition in the individual programme areas.

EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION



After the cyclone—house reconstruction in Andhra Pradesh

The eastern region of India, is prone to natural calamities of various types. The two states of Orissa and West Bengal are particularly vulnerable, where time and again LWS India has been involved in emergency operations during the last decade.

The year 1985 was no different. Relief operations necessiated by the 1984 floods in the coastal districts of the two States as well as some interior districts of West Bengal were followed up with rehabilitation measures including construction of primary schools and tubewell sinking.

While the rehabilitation measures were underway a severe cyclone swept through the coastal areas of the two States in the month of October 1985.

Particularly worst hit were the delta region of Sunderbans in West Bengal and Balasore district in Orissa. Prompt measures by the Emergency Unit provided succour and relief to approximately 15,000 beneficiaries. Along with emergency food rations, medical aid was also provided on a large scale in the Sunderbans area.

During the year, 47 schools were constructed and 203 tubewells were sunk in five districts spread over the two States of Orissa and West Bengal.

In response to the District Magistrate's request to alleviate the situation caused by an acute drinking water scarcity in Kharagpur town of West Bengal, LWS undertook sinking of 30 rig bored tubewells in collaboration with the Municipal authorities. As a token of their participation, the Kharagpur Municipality provided 30 Mark-II tubewell heads.

The tragedy in Kalahandi district of Orissa took a drastic turn during the year with reports of widespread starvation and even distress sale of babies. The cumulative effect of the continuing 20 year drought finally sapped whatever little strength and vitality the people possessed.

In response to a special request by the Government of Orissa, LWS India initiated a nutrition programme in two of the worst affected blocks and also undertook labour intensive food-for-work projects.

During the year the Emergency Unit of LWS India also responded to a request from the Division of Social Action (DSA) of the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UELCI) to take up a housing programme for the Cyclone victims in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh in South India. By year end, a housing scheme for 250 cyclone victims was in progress.

In times of emergencies, LWS India works in close co-operation and collaboration with the victims of natural calamities, voluntary agencies, local churches and the state governments. Besides the expertise gained over the years, LWS has also acquired an excellent reputation in the sphere of Disaster Preparedness and Relief.

Note : Details of Emergency & Rehabilitation activities appear in a separate report.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

During the year, the Management of Finance and Stores aimed at optimum utilization of resources available with LWS India. Despite various constraints, 64 percent (US $ 3,079,586) of the budget (US $ 4,800,296) was utilised.

Efforts were directed towards improving the system of finance and stores management as well as documentation procedures. Frequent field visits and continuous dialogue with project personnel helped to achieve greater financial discipline and control. Commendable service was rendered by our auditors M/s. Price Waterhouse and Company in this context.

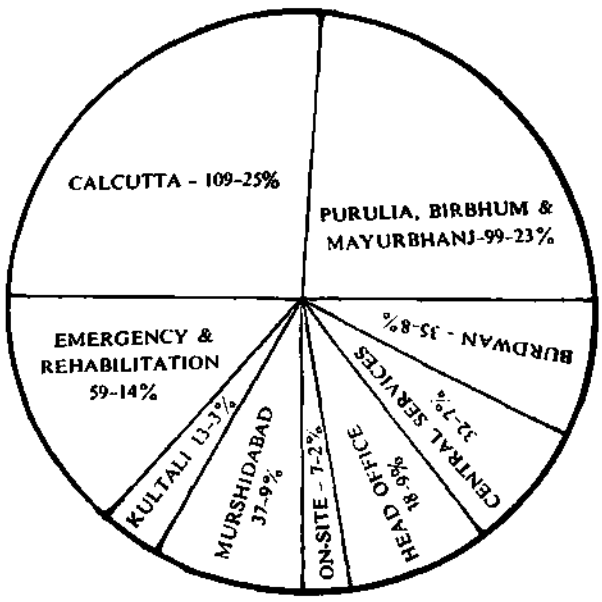
Annual budget preparation exercises were used for ensuring better assessment of project plans and the projects' requirement of men, material and money based on the ability of the target population for effective utilization of these resources.

Field programmes organised workshops and training programmes in respect of 'Accounts and Stores Management', for the field staff.

The Finance Section furthermore acted as a consultative body to help the field programmes as well as allied institutions, to ensure proper adherence and compliance with the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.

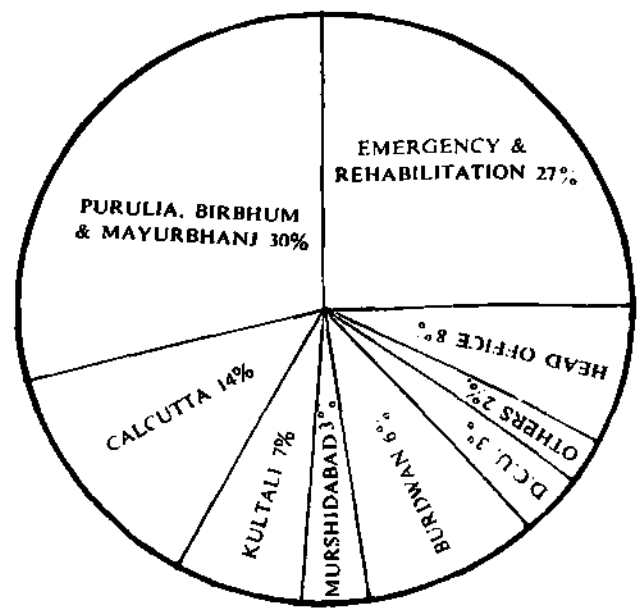
STAFF DISTRIBUTION

TOTAL STAFF: 429



ASSET DISTRIBUTION

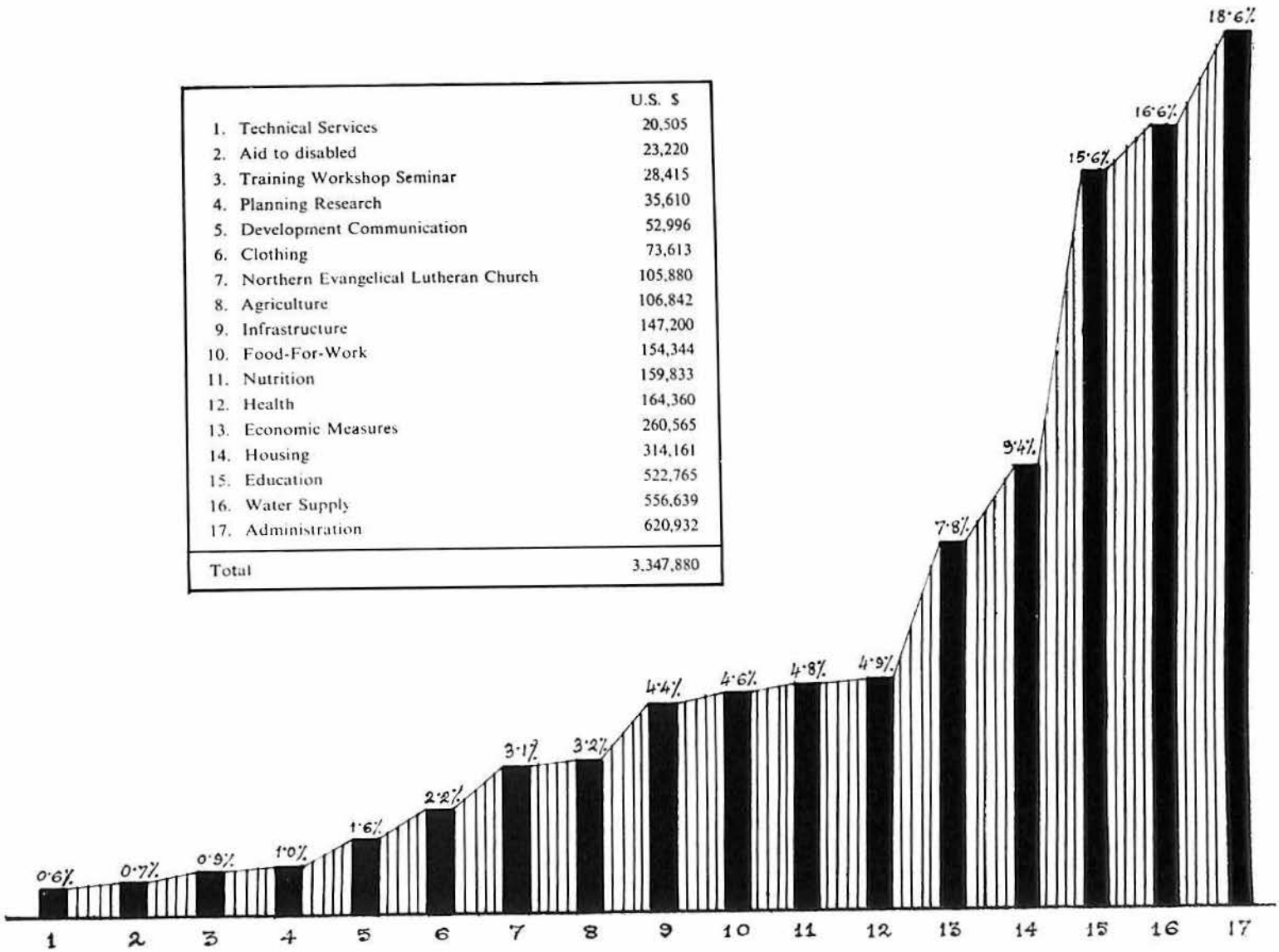
TOTAL VALUE : US $ 1,614,909



RESOURCE UTILISATION

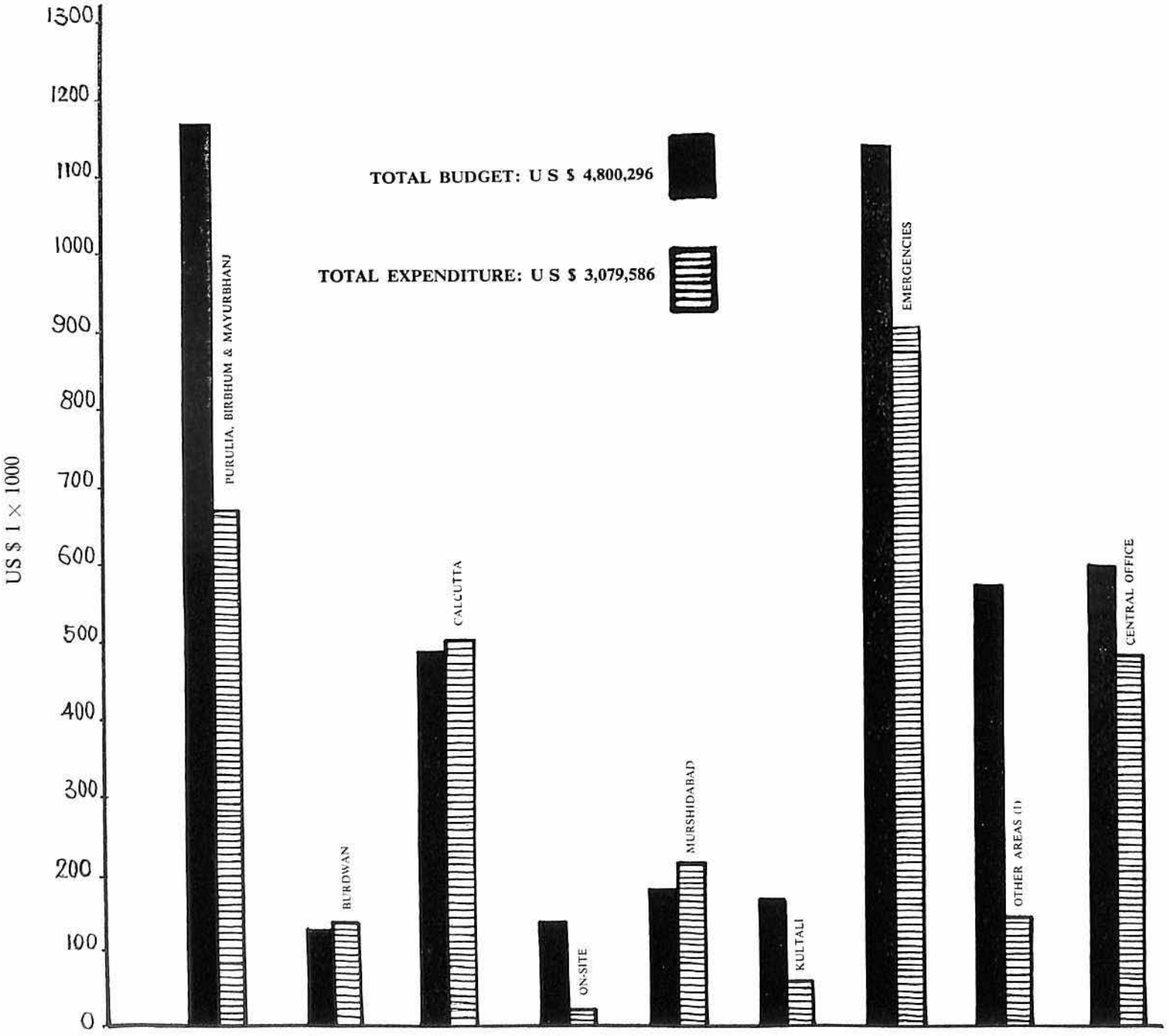
PROGRAMME-WISE

	U.S. $
1. Technical Services	20,505
2. Aid to disabled	23,220
3. Training Workshop Seminar	28,415
4. Planning Research	35,610
5. Development Communication	52,996
6. Clothing	73,613
7. Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church	105,880
8. Agriculture	106,842
9. Infrastructure	147,200
10. Food-For-Work	154,344
11. Nutrition	159,833
12. Health	164,360
13. Economic Measures	260,565
14. Housing	314,161
15. Education	522,765
16. Water Supply	556,639
17. Administration	620,932
Total	3,347,880



BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

AREA-WISE

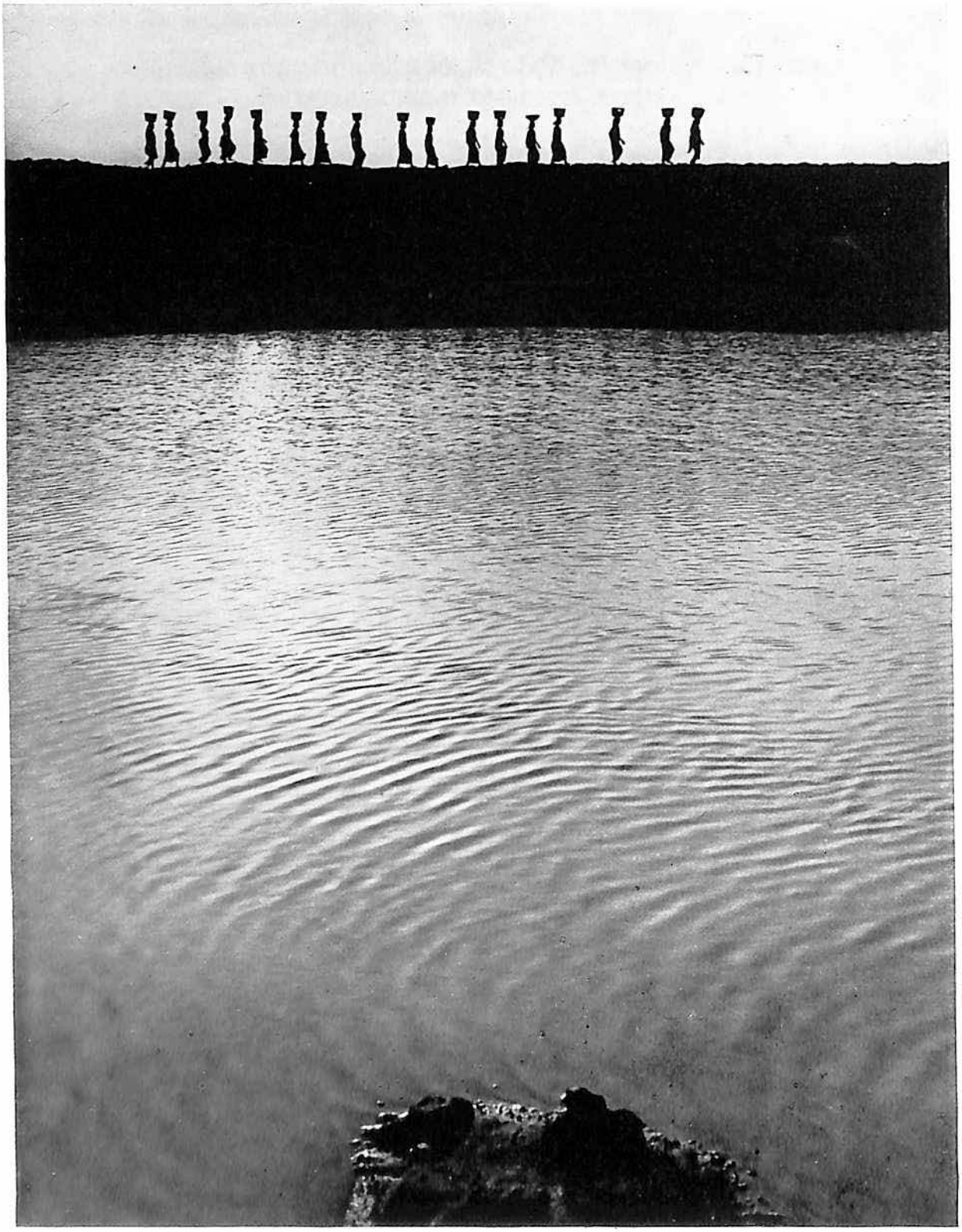


(1) Other areas Budget includes an amount of US $ 303,000 involving a closed project.

LWS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.85

	Rs.	US $
Expense Category		
Programme Operation	2,352,993	195,361
Planning, Research, Evaluation and Monitoring	434,572	35,610
Engineering & Technical Services	247,182	20,505
Water, Health & Agriculture Trident	8,042,140	665,837
Burdwan Projects	1,663,002	138,843
Calcutta Projects	6,053,059	501,664
Murshidabad Projects	2,555,571	213,873
Sunderban Projects	159,136	13,001
Development Communication	1,675,122	140,788
Medical Services	318,871	26,526
Kultali Projects	666,248	55,464
On-Site Improvement Projects	222,227	18,545
Emergency Operation	11,290,753	924,469
Handicapped Children	300,000	23,220
	35,980,876	2,973,706
NELC: Rehabilitation & Development	1,250,950	105,880
	37,231,826	3,079,586
Total Resources Administered		
LWS Funds	37,231,826	3,079,586
LWS Material	1,655,667	148,000
Local Participation	1,239,916	120,294
	40,127,409	3,347,880

Note: Details of resources administered for 1985 Emergency Operation totalling Rs. 13,984,380 (US $ 1,165,365) are shown in the Emergency and Rehabilitation Unit's annual report.



THE EXECUTIVE

Central Office

Director	—	Aage Larsen
Deputy Director	—	G. S. Banerjee
Programme Secretary	—	Neville Pradhan
Finance Adviser	—	C. Minderhoud
Programme Coordinator (Finance)	—	D. Roychoudhury
Emergency Officer	—	P. C. Joseph

Sectoral Offices

Development Communication	—	T. K. Ray, *Programme Coordinator*
Engineering & Technical Services	—	K. Roy, *Technical Adviser*
Medical Services	—	Dr. B. K. Ghosh, *Programme Coordinator*

Programme Offices

Burdwan/Birbhum	—	D. K. Kar, *Dy. Programme Coordinator*
Calcutta & On-Site-Improvement	—	B. N. Poddar, *Programme Coordinator*
Kultali	—	A. R. Majumdar, *Dy. Programme Coordinator*
Murshidabad	—	P. K. Chakraborty, *Dy. Programme Coordinator*
Water, Health & Agriculture Trident (WHAT)	—	Dr. B. B. Choudhuri, *Programme Coordinator*

The following senior staff either retired or left the organisation during 1985:

S. J. Nathan
I. Rantakari
N. K. Saha

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